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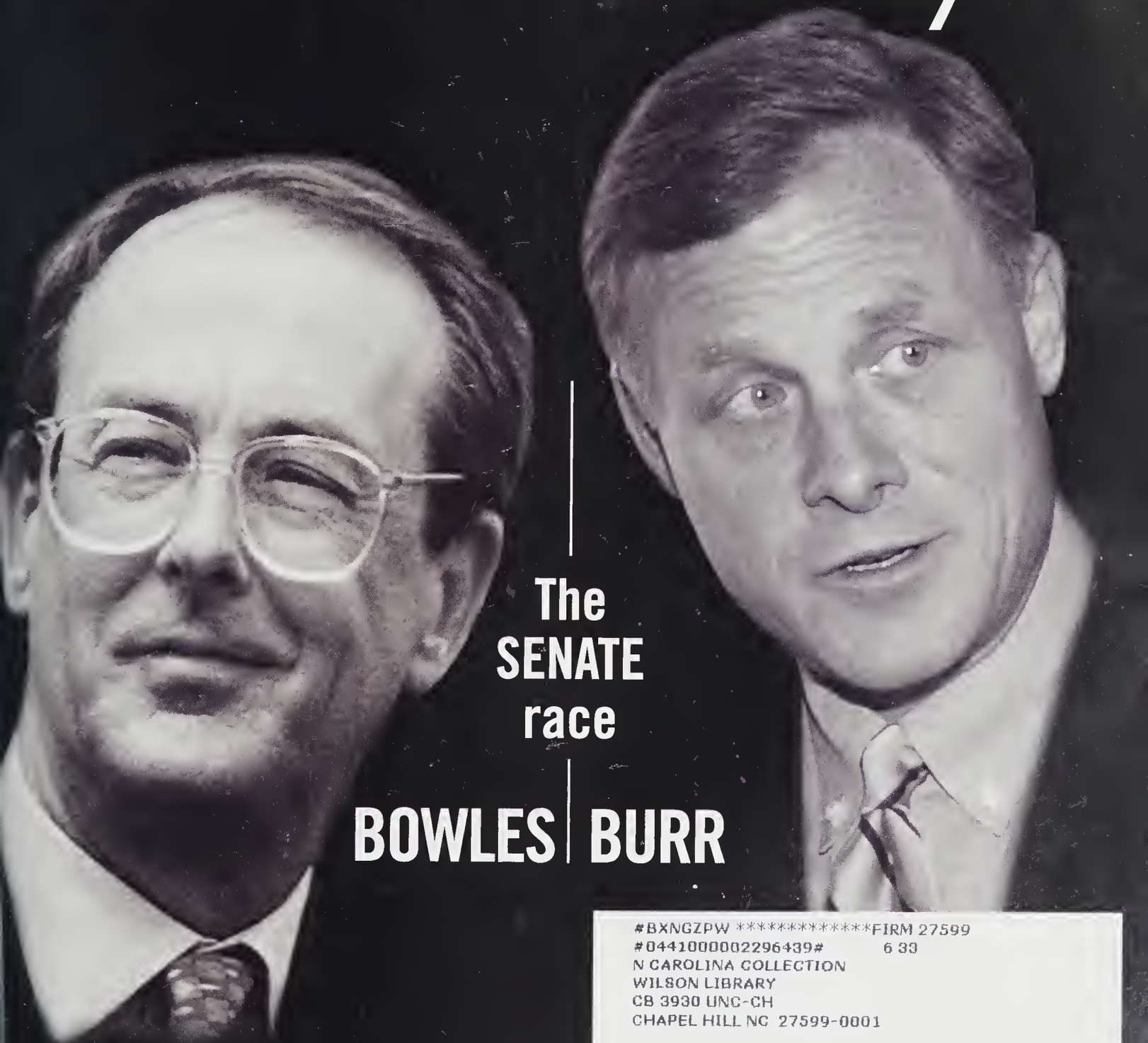
Volume 36, No. 10, October 2004

Carolina country



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Consumers trust and prefer cooperatives — see page 8

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Published by North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

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eriodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and dditional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 umner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Carolina ountry® is a registered trademark of the North arolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. SSN 0008-6746) (USPS 832800)
ostmaster: Send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, aleigh, N.C. 27611.
ubscriptions: Individual subscriptions, $8 per year. 20 outside U.S.A. Schools, libraries, $6.
ddress Change: To change address, send magazine ailing label to your electric cooperative.

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S YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

olina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North olina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these eratives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a scription by calling Member Services at the office of your coopera- If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

Volume 36, No. 10, October 2004

features

10 BOWLES AND BURR
The candidates for North Carolina's open U.S. Senate seat speak directly to electric co-op members.

12 IF I WERE GOVERNOR . . .
Your ideas on what you would do if elected governor of North Carolina.

16 VICTORY JUNCTION
Kyle and Pattie Petty and family have opened a camp for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses. Randolph Electric opened its heart for the project as well.

Pattie and Kyle Petty (at right) attracted a few celebrities to the grand opening of Victory Junction. See page 16.

On the Cover
The candidates for North Carolina's open U.S. Senate seat. See their comments to co-op members on pages 10 and 11. Photo treatment by Nicole Ferrari.

departments

FIRST PERSON 4
Elections, democracy and cooperatives. Plus: A Central EMC family was left homeless by a tornado.

MORE POWER TO YOU 8
Cooperatives produce satisfied customers. Touchstone Energy supports North Carolina's 4-H programs.

CAROLINA COUNTRY STORE 26
Products, services and books with a North Carolina touch.

TAR HEEL LESSONS 29
For students and teachers.

MARKETPLACE 30-34
A showcase of goods and services.

JOYNER'S CORNER 31
Put a pig in a sty. And: What does molestation mean?

CAROLINA COMPASS 35
October events and exhibits.

HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE 40
Herbs indoors.

CLASSIFIED ADS 41
New this month: computer services in Dunn.

CAROLINA KITCHEN 42
Pumpkin Roll, Apple Cobbler, Sesame Chicken Strips.

It's all about democracy

By Michael E.C. Gery, editor

This year's presidential election sure has worked up a frenzy among some of us.

You might think at first glance that there's not much difference between George Bush and John Kerry. Regardless of the fact that they each are wealthy, patriotic, privileged 50-something white males, they have very different personalities and operating styles. Many Americans vote for someone because they can relate to the candidate's manner, and there's nothing really wrong with that. And because the race for president in North Carolina is seen as a close one, we have been getting a lot of attention from the two campaigns. That's how democracy should be.

In the race for North Carolina's open U.S. Senate seat, Erskine Bowles and Richard Burr are both native sons educated in the Atlantic Coast Conference with backgrounds in business and government. But their approach to issues affecting North Carolina and the nation differ considerably.

And in the races for Governor, Congress, the Council of State offices, state senators and representatives and others, we in North Carolina should feel privileged that we have choices among those seeking our votes and our trust.

Not only can we feel privileged to live in a society where we regularly have a choice among government representatives, but we also can appreciate the system whereby we can elect representatives to manage the energy utility that we collectively own.

The important thing is to vote.

In the 2000 presidential election, 50 percent of North Carolinians old enough to vote actually cast ballots, which was about the same portion in the nation as a whole.

Since 1990, according to the Center for Voting and Democracy, turnout among those of voting age in the U.S. has averaged 45 percent. Compare that to turnout in other nations during the same time period: Argentina 81 percent, Belgium 84 percent, Denmark 83 percent, Greece 85 percent, Italy 90 percent, and 83 percent in Australia, where voting is compulsory and those who can vote but do not are subject to a fine.

As they say, if you don't vote you can't complain.

One remarkable thing about almost all the candidates running for elective office in North Carolina is that they are familiar with electric cooperatives and what is important to us. Co-op board members and staff forge close professional relationships with elected officials and their staffs. As issues arise that concern co-ops and their communities, our elected representatives in the halls of government hear from us, and in sizable numbers, too. They know very well that co-op members generally are well-informed about issues, because co-ops take very seriously their obligation to communicate with the membership. (Carolina Country and your co-op's newsletter are good examples of the communication efforts.)

Sen. John Edwards, now a candidate for the nation's second-highest elective office, knows about the co-ops in this state, not only because his family grew up with Randolph EMC, but also because co-op representatives have visited with him and his staff on a regular basis. The same is true for Erskine Bowles and Richard Burr, who have appeared at co-op meetings and have visited co-op offices and hosted co-op officials in their own offices. You can read the comments both Bowles and Burr have made directly to you as co-op members on pages 10 and 11.

Not only can we feel privileged to live in a society where we regularly have a choice among government representatives, but we also can appreciate the system whereby we can elect representatives to manage the energy utility that we collectively own.

October is a month when seven of North Carolina's electric co-ops hold annual meetings where members have the opportunity to vote for the people who manage your cooperative and where you can participate in a discussion about the direction of your electric utility. Four co-ops held annual meetings and elections in September, two in August and another two will hold them in November. The remainder were held earlier in the year. No other form of business is organized, managed and regulated as democratically as a cooperative.

The fall also is the time when electric cooperatives throughout the nation begin the process of forming national policy and electing national officers and committee members. At several regional meetings this fall, delegates from more than 900 electric cooperatives will convene to nominate national representatives and discuss resolutions that will guide cooperatives for the coming years. This is an annual, grassroots process that culminates at the cooperatives annual national convention in March. It's just the way cooperative businesses function — a participatory, inclusive, understandable, open and cooperative way of doing business.

It's all about democracy.

Powerful sky

I took this picture of the sun setting over Dallas, N.C. on August 21, 2004.

Laura G. Odem
Dallas
Rutherford EMC

Getting off at her graveyard

My mother and father went to visit my uncle and aunt at the old home place where my Grandma used to live. Now my father didn't love this mother-in-law. These two never saw eye to eye. My father said she was mean and stingy. He said she would hide the biscuits under the stove.

Well on our way to Grandma's house, Papa kept talking about my mother's mama. My mama said, "Shut up. We have to come back home, you know."

Well it was around 9:30 when we got ready to return home. My papa was driving a '42 Chevrolet. It began to rain and the road had a lot of mud holes in it. It was raining so hard we couldn't see the road. The lights on the car went dim. They were so dim they looked yellow. Papa began to fuss.

Mama said, "I told you to stop talking about my mama. She is in the car with us. That's why the lights won't work."

We had to drive by the graveyard where Grandma was buried. Mama said, "Stop the car, open the door, and let her out."

We did. Right then the car lights shone so bright you could see a third of a mile up the road.

Mama said, "Now my mother is out of the car."

Corina Bradley
Enfield
Halifax EMC

Grateful to be alive

A tornado whipped through this part of Harnett County on Aug. 12. My daughter Lindsey and I were in our house and didn't know it was coming until we looked outside and it was too late. It exploded our house, a 2,100 square-foot modular home. It blew debris a half-mile away and picked up my truck and carried it 45 feet. Two campers are still hanging from a tree. It picked us up, too. My daughter was lucky to land on about the only bare spot on the ground. I came to in the pool, which had all the water sucked out of it. We ended up with only stitches. It was really a miracle we weren't killed. I know some were killed in Pender County. It all happened in less than five minutes. It got pitch black, then everything exploded. The TV exploded. We lost everything and can't even find our personal things.

Fayetteville Observer

Lindsey Green, 15, searches through the rubble of her home to find family photos that could be salvaged. A tornado went through an area of Harnett County on Aug. 2. According to Harnett County officials, Lindsey Green and her father Steve, were two of the three people hurt in what the National Weather Service called a tornado with winds from 80 to 100 mph.

We want to thank the neighbors and friends who are helping us. I am disabled and my daughter is at Overhills High School. We are members of Central EMC.

Stephen Green
2610 Marks Rd.
Cameron, NC 28326

What is a soakie?

I'm not originally from North Carolina, but I am proud to have made it my home for the last 20 years and can think of no better place to live and raise a family.

I loved your article in this month's magazine, "You know you're from North Carolina if...". I have a question: What is a "soakie," as in eating a soakie for breakfast?

Anne Armen

Editor's Note:

Jessie Brown, who lives in Harmony, Iredell County, explains it this way: "When I was a little girl, my father used to take left-over biscuits from the night's previous dinner, and he would crumble them up in the bottom of a coffee cup. After that, he would add coffee, cream and sugar to the biscuits, letting the whole thing soak in the cup. After the biscuits were well soaked by the coffee, we would eat it for a breakfast treat."

And Shirley Harrison-Terrell, who lives in Handy, Davidson County, told us that some people call it "soaky bread" and others know it as a "tabby." She said, "Grandfather would tear the brown, toasty edges from a hot biscuit and put them into his saucer, sprinkle it heavily with sugar, pour hot coffee on it and eat it."

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Relaxation therapy for your feet

Visco-elastic foam has changed the way people sleep, now it helps the way you walk.

by Leigh Ligon

My feet hurt! How many times have you heard *or* said that…standing in line at the grocery store or simply while doing daily routine tasks? I feel like the older I get the more my feet ache. I've tried elevating my feet, soaking them in hot water and expensive massage therapy—but to no avail. That's why I'm so excited to tell you about my recent discovery—CLOUD 10 Slippers!

How did a NASA invention save my feet? From the moment I slipped them on, they molded to the shape of my feet like I had a custom fit pair of slippers made especially for me! The slipper's insole is made from visco-elastic memory foam originally created by NASA. This foam equalizes pressure, reduces stress and tension and provides incredible comfort.

According to the American Podiatric Medical Association, as people age, their feet tend to spread, and lose the fatty pads that cushion the bottom of the feet. Additional weight can affect the bone and ligament structure. These slippers mold to the contours of my feet through my body's heat and weight, literally cushioning every single step I take.

Technologically advanced slippers mold to the contours of your feet making each step feel like your walking on Cloud 10!

Did you know that the average person takes 8,000 to 10,000 steps a day, which adds up to about 115,000 miles over a lifetime? That's enough to go around the circumference of the earth four times. No wonder we all have tired, aching feet.

I've heard about similar kinds of slippers, but I couldn't afford to spend nearly $70 a pair. The Cloud 10 Slippers were a much better fit for my budget. The outer material of these stylish slippers is beautiful tan faux suede and they feature a cozy, fleece-lined interior and collar to provide added warmth. The durable rubber sole is perfect for my quick trips outdoors to grab the morning paper.

❖ *Inner sole is constructed from visco-elastic memory foam*
❖ *Body heat molds foam to cushion feet for maximum support*
❖ *Super-soft, fleece lining provides added warmth*
❖ *Durable rubber sole—perfect for quick outdoor trips!*

If you have arthritic feet like I do, you suffer from inflammation and pain in your joints. Our feet have to last a lifetime and I've decided to stop neglecting the part of my body that keeps me mobile.

These slippers have a unisex design making them great for both men and women. I wear my Cloud 10 Slippers every chance I get and my feet have never felt so pampered.

Sink your feet into luxury. We are so confident that CLOUD 10 slippers will cushion your feet in complete comfort that we will offer you a no-questions asked in-home trial for 30 days. If you're not 100% completely satisfied just return them for a full refund of the purchase price.

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Consumers trust and prefer cooperatives

In survey after survey, consumers rate cooperatives as more trustworthy than investor-owned corporations and they say that they would prefer to do business with co-ops. In 2003, a coalition of cooperative organizations commissioned a survey of 2,031 adult Americans, conducted July 24-28 by The Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, N.J., regarding their perceptions of different corporate governance practices, their perceptions of cooperatives and publicly traded corporations, and the likelihood that they would do business with cooperatives. At the 95 percent confidence level, the survey has a two percent margin of error.

2003 Survey Findings

Governance structure

When people were asked if the following governance characteristics make a business more or less trustworthy:

- 68% said that a business that has consumers on its board of directors is more or much more trustworthy;
- 66% said that a business that is owned by the people who use the services of the company or buy its goods is more or much more trustworthy;
- 62% said a business that is locally owned and controlled is more or much more trustworthy;
- 55% said a business that allows its customers to democratically elect its board of directors is more or much more trustworthy.

Co-ops vs. other corporations

When people were asked if they agreed or disagreed whether the following attributes described co-ops and publicly traded corporations:

- 81% agreed that co-ops can be counted on to meet their customers needs, compared to 65% for publicly traded corporations;
- 79% agreed that co-ops are committed to providing the highest quality service to their customers, compared to 58% for publicly traded corporations;
- 78% agreed that co-ops are committed to and involved in their communities, compared to 53% for publicly traded corporations;
- 77% agreed that co-ops have the best interests of consumers in mind when conducting business, compared to 47% for publicly traded corporations;
- 68% agreed that co-ops are ethically governed, compared to 45% for publicly traded corporations.

Consumer preferences

When people rated whether knowing that a business is a cooperative affects the likelihood they would use or purchase a product or service being offered:

- 73% were more likely to buy products from a food cooperative;
- 71% were more likely to use a credit union;
- 69% were more likely to patronize independent, local businesses that belonged to a buying co-op;
- 67% were more likely to buy electricity or telecommunications services from a local, member-owned utility co-op.

Other findings

- Those who are already members of cooperatives are more likely to favor co-op products and services; even among non-members, being a co-op is a net plus.
- Adults 55 and younger are more likely to favor cooperative products and services than adults 55 and older.
- African Americans are more likely to favor co-op products and services than whites.

Facts & Figures

- U.S. co-ops **serve some 120 million members,** or 4 in 10 Americans.
- Cooperatives operate in **every industry** including agriculture, childcare, energy, financial services, food retailing and distribution, health care, insurance, housing, purchasing and shared services, telecommunications and others.
- More than 30 cooperatives **have annual revenues in excess of $1 billion,** including such well-known names as Land O' Lakes, Inc., and ACE Hardware. The top 100 co-ops have a combined $120 billion in revenues.
- **10,000 U.S. credit unions** have 84 million members and assets in excess of $600 billion.
- Nearly **1,000 rural electric cooperatives** own and maintain nearly half of the electric distribution lines in the United States, cover 75 percent of the land mass and provide electricity to 36 million people.
- **270 telephone co-ops** provide service to 2 million households.
- More than **3,000 housing cooperatives** provide homes for more than one million households.
- Some **250 purchasing cooperatives** offer group buying and shared services to more than 50,000 independent businesses.
- More than **1,000 mutual insurance companies,** with more than $80 billion in net written premiums, are owned by their policyholders.

Touchstone Energy sponsors 4-H Congress and presentations

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives sponsored NC 4-H Congress, a weeklong event held in Raleigh during July, offering educational, recreational and recognition opportunities to 4-H members. Students ages 14 to 18 from each of North Carolina's 100 counties, adult volunteers and Extension professionals attended the event, totaling more than 800 participants.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives sponsored seven different programs to teach students the operational structures of the General Assembly, courts and counties, as well as teaching 4-H'ers the importance of confidence in public speaking and teamwork. The General Assembly was not in Raleigh during the event, but "students have been challenged to go home, talk to their representatives and write a report about it," said Carolyn Watts, a 4-H board member and the senior vice president of competitive strategies for North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

In 1903, 4-H organizations formed in rural areas for young people who wanted better agricultural education, but throughout the last century, the organization's emphasis has changed. Members are now in rural and urban areas, and the main focus of 4-H is to recognize local issues, understand the issues and have the confidence to discuss them with local leaders.

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives also sponsored the North Carolina 4-H Electric Presentations competition. The 4-H Presentation Program allows the 4-H participants ages 9-18, to select a topic of interest and prepare either a demonstration or an illustrated presentation and present it publicly to an audience of peers, parents and judges.

The Presentation Program teaches life skills such as goal-setting, stress management, critical thinking, communication and presentation skills, as well as provides opportunities for learning social skills and developing positive relationships with 4-H mentors.

"I was very impressed with all of the competitors in the Electric Presentations competition," said Lois Goodwin, judge for the electric presentations, who is a training and education specialist for North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. "The motivation and professionalism each student exemplified was remarkable."

This year's winners of the Electric Presentation competition received $100 scholarship bonds and $75 scholarship to attend the 4-H Congress.

The 2004 Electric Presentation winner in the 9-10 year old age division was Javier Daenos from Dobson, with a presentation entitled "The Magic of Magnets." The 11-13 year old division, winner was Shadow Wissman from Jarvisburg, with a presentation entitled "It's Electrifying!" The 14-18 year old division was Neal Bowman from Winnabow. His presentation was entitled, "Anatomy of a DC Motor."

—Suzanne Ward

Comparing home energy use nationwide

You may have wondered how your home's energy consumption compares others around the country. One of the best sources of this information is the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA).

The EIA collects statistics on energy use in American homes. They recognize three distinct housing types among the approximately 105 million American households: single-family, multi-family, and mobile homes. Single-family homes make up 73 percent of American households, multi-family comprise 21 percent of the total, and mobile or manufactured homes are 6 percent. But in the primarily rural areas served by electric cooperatives, single-family and manufactured homes predominate. Manufactured homes in these rural areas represent 20 to 50 percent of the housing stock.

According to Saturn Resource Management, the average site-built home in the U.S. consumes $1,492 worth of energy each year, and the average manufactured home uses $1,206. Though manufactured homes use less total energy per household, they use more per square foot than site-built homes: $0.81 per square foot for site-built homes versus $1.27 per square foot for manufactured homes.

USDA/NRCS

Site-built homes use more total energy, but less per square foot than manufactured homes.

Northeastern homes have the highest average energy use at $1,763 annually, which reflects their severe climate and high energy costs. Homes in the Midwest and South each use around $1,450 annually. Western homes have the lowest annual average at $1,155 because so many Westerners live in mild climates like California and Arizona.

Of the total energy used in American homes, 65 percent is electricity, 26 percent is natural gas, 7 percent is oil or propane, and the remaining 2 percent is wood heat and other energy sources.

John Krigger of Saturn Resource Management can be reached at the Web site www.residential-energy.com

BOWLES AND BURR

ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY POLICY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

In this year's general election, one of the most closely watched races in both the nation and in North Carolina is for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by John Edwards, who is running nationally as the Democratic vice presidential candidate. Democrat Erskine Bowles of Charlotte and Republican Richard Burr of Winston-Salem have been campaigning for the seat statewide for more than a year. Both candidates are familiar with issues facing North Carolina's rural and suburban communities and the Touchstone Energy cooperatives that serve those communities. They have met with the directors and staffs of the cooperatives several times and have campaigned in the communities themselves.

In late summer, Carolina Country posed three questions to each candidate concerning rural development, federal energy policy affecting cooperatives, and renewable energy programs. Their replies are presented on these pages.

Erskine Bowles

In 2002, Democrats nominated Erskine Bowles to run for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Jesse Helms, but he lost to Elizabeth Dole. He headed Gov. Jim Hunt's Rural Prosperity Task Force, served as President Bill Clinton's Chief of Staff and directed the U.S. Small Business Administration. He and his wife, Crandall, live in Charlotte and have three grown children. For more information, visit www.bowles2004.com.

Helping our rural economy

North Carolina's economy has been devastated in the past three years by recession and manufacturers shipping jobs overseas. That is why I introduced a Jobs Plan, which outlines detailed steps to promote job growth and get North Carolina's economy back on track. As a central part of this plan, I vow to put North Carolina first by not supporting any new trade agreements until we start enforcing the ones we already have on the books. We must force foreign countries to open up their markets to U.S. goods and services and we must stop the illegal transshipments that are coming into the country and costing thousands of North Carolinians their jobs. In addition to trade policies that are fair to North Carolina's workers, we should focus on three areas to bring jobs back to rural North Carolina: investing in infrastructure, supporting our small businesses, and getting a tobacco buyout passed by Congress.

Investing in infrastructure is critical to job growth and ensuring that our rural communities are able to compete in the global economy. Adequate water and sewer service are crucial to the efforts of smaller towns and rural areas to attract businesses, and could benefit greatly from increased federal investment. In this decade, extending the Internet and high-speed access to rural areas is critically important to ensuring that all North Carolinians are competitive in the marketplace. High-speed broadband is the farm to market infrastructure of the 21st century.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. We must supply small businesses with ready and affordable capital and the advice they need to succeed. They also must have access to affordable health care insurance. I believe we should recognize the critical role that small businesses play in our rural communities by providing them with the resources and support they need to continue to drive economic growth and job creation.

A tobacco buyout is vital to our farmers and I strongly support efforts to get a buyout passed by Congress this year. A buyout will provide stability to our tobacco communities and pump $6 billion into rural North Carolina. This infusion of capital will support the types of activities that will help launch our agricultural sector into a new era of growth and development. I have already lobbied hard on behalf of our tobacco farmers on this issue, and will do whatever it takes to get a buyout passed.

U.S. energy policy & consumers

The greatest challenge facing electric cooperatives is the increasingly un-level playing field they face when competing with the larger investor-owned utilities. Co-ops serve an average of 6.6 consumers per mile of line with annual revenues of about $8,500 per mile of line; investor-owned utilities

(continued at Bowles, next page)

Richard Burr

Richard Burr is serving his fifth term in Congress representing North Carolina's northwestern counties. He serves on the House Committee of Energy and Commerce and the Select Committee on Intelligence. He led the effort in 1998 to designate the New River an American Heritage River. He lives in Winsotin-Salem with his wife, Brooke, and their two sons. For more information, visit www.burr2004.com.

Helping our rural economy

Three key elements in revitalizing our rural communities — outside of economic development grants at the local, state and federal level, as well as the desperately-needed tobacco buyout — are tax incentives, infrastructure improvements and strengthening community college and continuing education programs. Tax incentives can be critical in encouraging investment and capital spending in rural communities and attracting new business. In the past, I have supported rural employment credits that would provide companies a tax credit for employee rural workers - an incentive for them to expand their businesses to rural areas. I have supported legislation that: provides tax incentives to communities impacted by NAFTA; improves IRS treatment of small issue bonds; reforestation tax credits; extends bonus depreciation for capital investments; and, importantly for many textile communities, legislation that encourages businesses to take on the challenge of cleaning up and renovating brownfield sites.

We must begin by making sure North Carolina gets back more of its contributions to the transportation trust fund. Economic development grants often focus, and rightly so, on water and sewer projects. We must also encourage investment in electricity transmission and the deployment of new broadband technology.

Finally, we must continue to strengthen North Carolina's community college system. One way to do so is to improve federal job training and displaced worker assistance programs so they more appropriately address the challenges of today's workforce and our economy. I have been actively involved with the community colleges in my district as they have branched out to include viticulture programs in their curricula: in Surry County, farmers have switched from tobacco to grapes and are learning the new crop in the community college. It is a

(continued at Burr, next page)

Erskine Bowles

average 34 customers per mile of line and collect $59,000 in revenue per mile of line.

Today, co-ops struggle to compete with the larger stock-owned companies because of the backing these entities have in Washington.

We must ensure a level playing field so that co-ops have the same opportunities to provide reliable service to consumers.

The federal government provides subsidies to each sector of the utility business: tax subsidies for the investor-owned (investment tax credits, deferred income taxes) and municipal-owned systems (tax-exempt bonds) and, to a lesser degree, the Rural Utility Service electric loan program for electric cooperatives.

However, the Administration's FY05 budget proposal for the Rural Utilities Services electric loan programs for electric cooperatives is nearly 35 percent less than the FY04 total agreed to by the House and Senate appropriators. The Administration is also considering more means-testing for these all important loans. This would penalize sound fiscal management by electric co-ops.

The RUS electric programs are federal loan programs; the loans are repaid with interest. Low-density settlement patterns in rural areas will continue to make it more costly for electric cooperatives to provide and maintain critical services.

In the Senate, I will work to ensure that rural consumers continue to have access to safe, reliable, and affordable supplies of power from electric cooperative utilities by fully funding the RUS electric loan program to reduce a backlog of pending RUS loan applications. I would also work to stop regulatory and legislative language to impose new means testing standards for RUS loan program eligibility.

Renewable energy programs

All you have to do is look around at what is going on in the Mid East today as well as the lack of stability in Venezuela to understand fully that America must break its addiction to oil and become far more energy independent. That means focusing on alternative sources of energy and renewable sources of energy as well as new technologies. Record high gas prices simply underscore the importance of developing better, more efficient ways to provide our energy needs in an effort to become energy independent.

Our efforts should focus on how best to leverage the potential of renewable sources like solar, wind, geothermal and biomass. I also believe we must focus on renewable fuels, like ethanol and biodiesel, and create programs to encourage fuel cells and combined heat and power facilities.

Voluntary programs like North Carolina's GreenPower are an excellent way to explore further how best to deploy renewable energy in our communities. As we explore these options, we must be mindful of their cost and availability, and thus their potential impact on rural communities. We must ensure that proposals for the use of renewable sources are tailored to the extent possible to fit the needs of different communities.

Richard Burr

transition that is taking place across the Yadkin Valley, but it is one example of what we can do when we think outside the box.

U.S. energy policy & consumers

A number of provisions in the electricity title of the House-passed Energy Bill are designed to protect cooperative consumers. The "Native Load Protection" section of the bill would ensure that, irrespective of whatever happens to the electric power industry in the future, cooperative utilities continue to have access to sufficient transmission capacity to meet their service obligations. Similarly, the "Transmission" provisions in the bill will help ensure that wholesale power and transmission capacity are available at affordable prices and not subject to the manipulation seen in California. Still other provisions in the bill would delay Washington, DC-driven market reforms to allow a more reasoned approach to low cost states like North Carolina. Overall, the electricity title in the House-passed bill is necessary to stimulate investment in our nation's aging transmission infrastructure—investment that has lagged critically behind investments in generation over the past decade. Much is being made about the need for Congress to enact mandatory reliability rules to prevent future blackouts like those of last August. These provisions are in the bill, along with others, and together they will ensure that the United States has the incentives and ability to build a 21st century power grid. I don't believe the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association would have endorsed the electricity title if it did not protect cooperative consumer rates.

Renewable energy programs

Even though alternative energy sources account for less than 5% of the energy generated in the United States, promising new technologies are priming wind, solar and biomass energy to gain a greater role in our energy portfolio. Again, the landmark Energy Bill passed by the House includes several provisions that will promote the production of non-traditional sources of renewable energy. The extension of the wind energy production tax credit, for example, will breathe new life into wind farm projects throughout the country. Researchers have identified areas in western North Carolina that might be the most suitable locations in the Southeast for developing wind farms. A production tax credit for energy generated from animal waste opens new opportunities for energy production in eastern North Carolina, while also bringing innovative methods of waste disposal and increased farm income for North Carolina poultry and hog producers. Farmers will also benefit from tax credits that encourage the production of biodiesel fuels. Corn, sweet potato and tobacco farmers will benefit from the ethanol provisions in the bill, as demand for products that can be converted into ethanol-blended fuels will increase.

I think the best tools for implementing alternative energy provisions in the Energy Bill, which unfortunately remains stalled in the Senate, are a good start. Most alternative energy sources still face technological and economic hurdles. In Congress, I have supported attempts to address both of these obstacles in a way that does not burden consumers with additional costs. The stalled legislation authorizes more money for research and development of alternative energy supplies and energy efficiency than has ever been proposed by the U.S. government. In addition, the bill contains sensible extensions of tax credits for alternative energy sources and energy-efficient homes, appliances and vehicles. From a cooperative utility perspective, I have supported the reauthorization and expansion of the Renewable Energy Production Incentive Program, which makes direct, per-kilowatt payments to non-profit utilities (like co-ops) for electricity generated from qualifying renewable energy sources, including landfill gas.

Given today's global oil prices, it is critical that we look for ways to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil. One approach put forward in the Energy Bill is the promotion of ethanol, which would both offset our dependence on oil and create new sources of income for farmers.

The North Carolina GreenPower Program is a model for how the use of renewable power sources can be increased without heavy-handed mandates from Washington, or even Raleigh. Established by a cross-section of energy providers, government officials and consumers, the program raises the profile of non-traditional sources of energy by allowing more customers to contribute money towards the purchase of renewable power.

If I Were Governor of North Carolina . . .

Plenty of you sent us ideas of what you would do if you were to become governor of North Carolina. If you all were governor, ours sure would be a different state. For one, thing, we'd probably have a state lottery (the most popular of your ideas). Also, teachers would be paid more, God would play a more prominent role, criminals would get harsher punishment, and we'd pay more attention to the natural environment.

We'll send all your ideas to whoever is elected governor this fall. Thanks for sending them to us. See a list of themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series on page 13. And be sure to vote on Nov. 2.

Michael E.C. Gery, editor

CLEAN THE AIR

I'm appalled by our state's air quality, some of the country's worst. As governor, I would improve our public transportation system and get some vehicles off our roads. I also would put a high tax on SUV's. People get large federal tax breaks for these vehicles, so they can afford to give a little extra to the state for the privilege of driving these gas-guzzling, dangerous cars.

As governor, I would be driving a compact car or a hybrid because it is the environmentally friendly and inexpensive way to go. I would set a good example for the fine people in my state and would not ask them to do anything I wouldn't.

The Great Smoky National Park is the most polluted in the nation. There are days when it is not safe to hike. This is not what our beautiful state wants to be known for. Ask the old-timers how far you could once see in these mountains compared to now.

Mary Catherine True
Marion
Rutherford EMC

LOTTERY, DOUGHNUTS, CLAY AIKEN

- Get the lottery so people would not have to drive to Virginia or South Carolina to buy tickets.
- Do away with food tax at grocery stores.
- Lower the price of car inspections to $5 and only have it done every two years.
- Make sure that retired state employees get a bigger raise every year.
- Keep Daylight Savings Time year-round.
- Save historic buildings and landmarks and make Cold Mountain a national landmark, if I could find it.
- Make Krispy Kreme doughnuts the state food.
- Make it a law that Clay Aiken sing the national anthem at all special events.

Barbara Jones
Lewisville
Surry-Yadkin EMC

PUNISH SCHOOLYARD BULLIES

I would make it mandatory for children to complete high school, and money management would be an integral part of high school curriculum.

School bullies would have to face harsh consequences: First offense, the bully would pick up litter in his community every Saturday for a month. If the victim had physical injuries, then a longer period of trash duty would be given. Second offense, the bully would have to go to solitary confinement for three days in a juvenile correctional facility and continue to pick up litter. Third offense, this schoolyard tyrant would receive five days of confinement, the parents and the child would go to family counseling, and litter duty would continue. Boot camp for troublemaking children would be the next step if the bully attacks again.

School bullies should be stopped quickly because they often get more violent as they grow older. Many kids have been injured and killed by bullies. A lot of the victims spiral downward emotionally, taking their own lives or the lives of others. If bullies are quickly chastised,

then this will save lives and stop senseless violence, saving many families from horrible grief.

Jamie Moore
Willard
Four County EMC

TAXES, GAMBLING, STATE DOG

- Make the voting districts whole counties.
- Give tax refunds only to minors and people who vote.
- Taxes would not be taken out of paychecks. Taxpayers would have to write a check paying their taxes before receiving the next paycheck.
- Smart Start would go. Head Start we already have. I do not want to pay for both.
- The size of the government in the state of North Carolina would shrink. So would the taxes.
- Gambling would be allowed on the Duke vs. Carolina basketball games only.
- The Irish setter would be the state dog.

George "Bud" Royster
Lexington
EnergyUnited

CLEAN UP THE ROADSIDES

I would challenge the legislature to pass more laws regarding cleaner state roads. I am retired and every day I walk along River Road in beautiful eastern Burke County, located off N.C. 18 south of Morganton. During my walk, I am saddened by the sight of many plastic containers that will not decay thrown out along the highway. People pick up aluminum cans from the roadsides because they can be recycled for a considerable amount of cash. As governor, I would put a 10-cents returnable deposit on any and all plastic bottles and containers, so that people would think twice about tossing them out.

Bob Melton
Morganton
Rutherford EMC

GOD, TEACHERS, HEALTH CARE, WILDERNESS

Put God back where He should be: first.

North Carolina has wonderful teachers and staff members in our public schools who do not get recognized for their hard work.

There are often good day care centers that are over crowded and need assistance. Let's make it easier for a parent to work a schedule so one could be home when the children get there.

Strive to get better assistance for cancer patients and patients with rare diseases. Work with insurance companies to keep rates low and help cancer survivors. Improve the disability claims for cancer patients and terminally ill patients.

Remember the beautiful parks and recreation areas that North Carolina holds in its palm. Work with surrounding states to begin a new campaign of promoting the "great outdoors." Instead of accepting any campaign funds to litter the beautiful countryside with signs, establish a trust fund from the money to help North Carolina's natural areas to be preserved.

Pamela Nichols
North Wilkesboro
EnergyUnited

Send us your best
Earn $50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

DECEMBER 2004
"Meeting Your Grandparents"
Something you never knew about a grandparent.
Deadline: Oct. 15

JANUARY 2005
"The Best Investment I Ever Made"
What was it and why.
Deadline: Nov. 15

FEBRUARY 2005
"Finally On My Own"
Tell us about the first place you lived on your own. Send pictures.
Deadline: Dec. 15

MARCH 2005
"Whacky Plants"
Pictures of strange-looking or unusual garden plants or produce?
Deadline: Jan. 15

APRIL 2005
"Road Trip Horror Stories"
Where did you go and what happened? Send pictures.
Deadline: Feb. 15

MAY 2005
"Safety Lessons"
Accidents and mishaps that taught you a safety lesson.
Deadline: March 15

JUNE 2005
"On the Farm"
The best things about growing up or living on a farm.
Deadline: April 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less. We retain reprint rights.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay $50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

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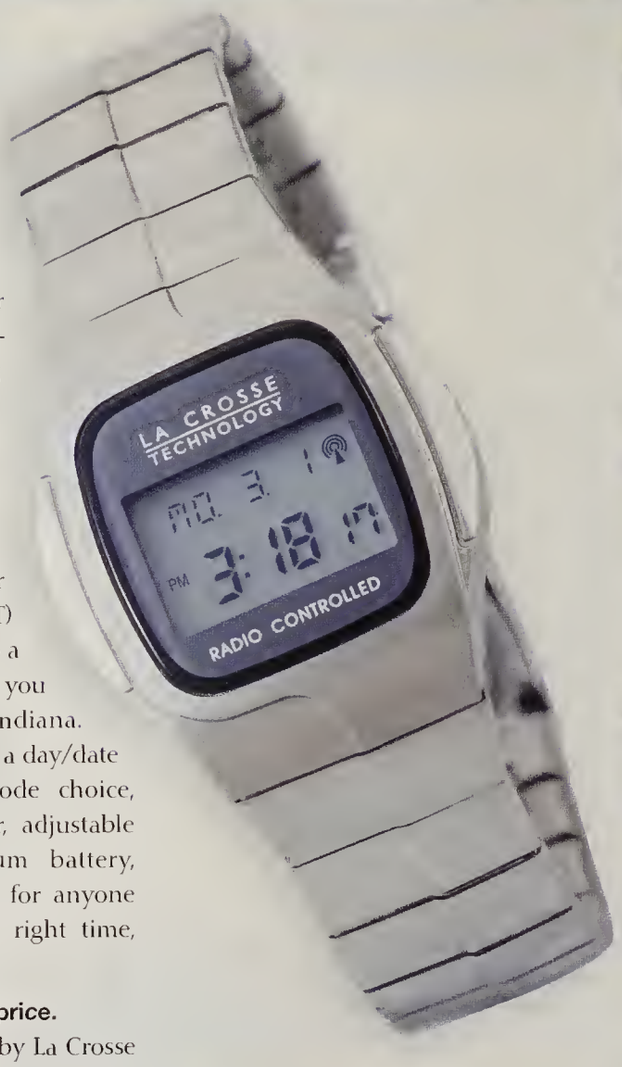

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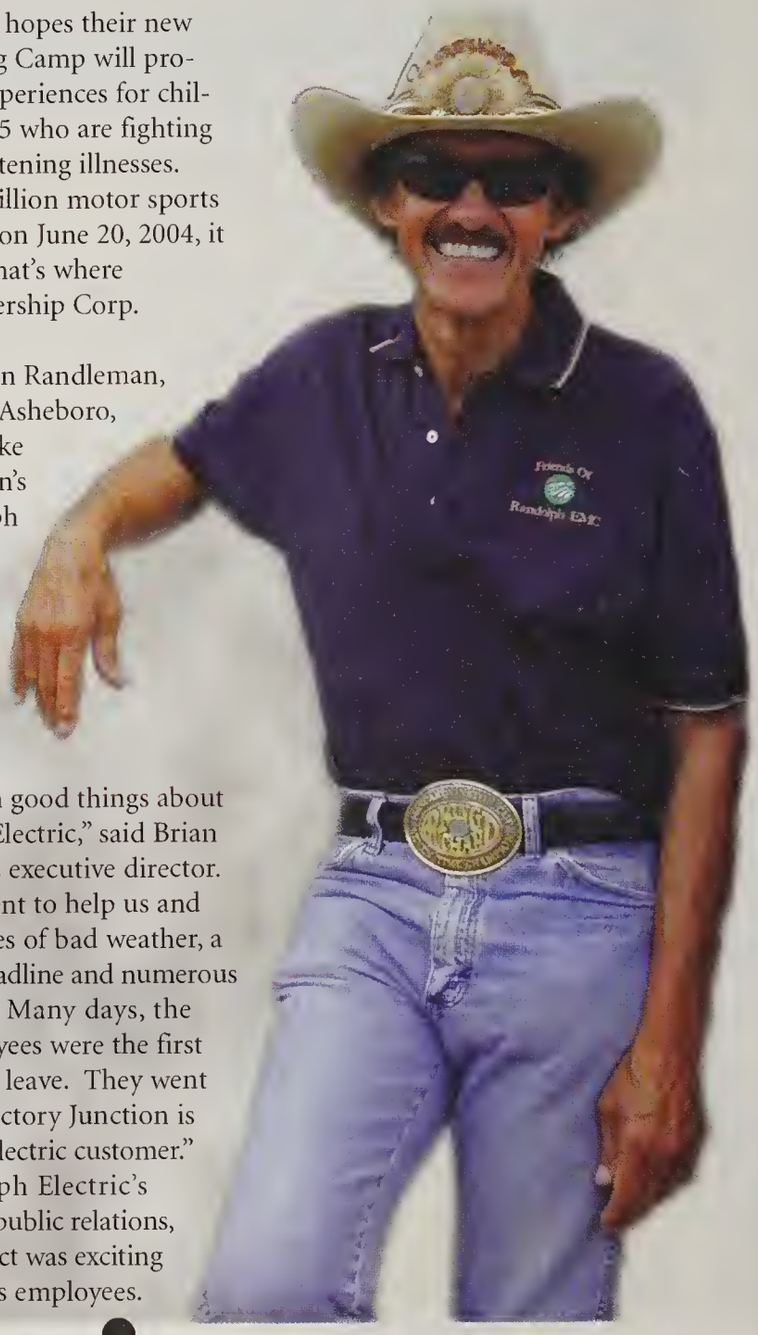
NCMNCM8/04

Victory Junction

Victory Junction Gang Camp grew from the hearts of the Richard and Kyle Petty families with power from Randolph EMC

By Mark Brumley



The Petty racing family hopes their new Victory Junction Gang Camp will provide "empowering" experiences for children ages 7 through 15 who are fighting chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

But before the $25 million motor sports fantasy camp could open on June 20, 2004, it had to have real power. That's where Randolph Electric Membership Corp. stepped in.

The camp is located in Randleman, between Greensboro and Asheboro, an area also served by Duke Power, but Victory Junction's developers chose Randolph Electric as its electric utility. That included installing the camp's underground electric lines and related equipment, then supplying it with power.

"I cannot say enough good things about working with Randolph Electric," said Brian Collier, Victory Junction's executive director. "They made a commitment to help us and stuck by it despite all types of bad weather, a very tight construction deadline and numerous unanticipated surprises. Many days, the Randolph Electric employees were the first on the site and the last to leave. They went above and beyond and Victory Junction is proud to be a Randolph Electric customer."

Dave Rowe, Randolph Electric's manager of member and public relations, said the high-profile project was exciting for all of the cooperative's employees.

"This is a camp that is going to serve children—children who have not had a lot of good things happen in their lives," Rowe said. "Now's the time for pride, when you switch from the excitement to the satisfaction of knowing that we do serve it and we're going to serve it really well. They're a member of our cooperative, and we're excited to have them on our system."

With the pride comes the added responsibility of keeping the power flowing to Victory Junction. Even though it's a year-round camp, the kids aren't roughing it. In many cases, the children's medical needs demand that the electricity stay on.

"They can't afford to be without power," Rowe said. "Those children are in such critical need."

Randolph Electric employees say they are confident that the cooperative won't disappoint Victory Junction.

Victory Junction is located in one of Randolph County's fastest-growing residential areas, so the power lines running to the camp are new. The area's substation is frequently upgraded. All the lines, transformers and other hardware are new. The lines are all underground. And the system has 10 times the capacity that it currently needs.

> "What we're doing here at Victory Junction is a medically sound, empowering environment for these kids to have fun."
>
> Pattie Petty
> Co-founder

Several of the key buildings at Victory Junction, including the Goody's Body Shop medical center, also have their own generators. And Rowe said Randolph Electric made provisions for the installation of a 1,000-kilowatt generator at some point in the future that will provide standby power to the entire camp, which has 36 buildings. He said the generator will also allow Victory Junction to reap significant savings on its electric bills, as the system would switch to backup power during periods of peak demand.

Randolph Electric also gave Victory Junction room to grow by installing an extra 1.15 miles of conduit at the site. Conduit is the pipe that shields electrical lines.

Sherrill Lowe, Randolph Electric's senior staking specialist who played a major role in planning the power infrastructure and coordinating its installation, said the extra conduit should prevent workers from having to dig up the ground. "It was best to go ahead and do it now so they could start landscaping and growing grass," Lowe said.

All told, Randolph Electric installed 5.04 miles of underground power lines at Victory Junction, Lowe said. Even though the crew that installed the lines hit a lot of rock during the project, they kept moving.

"We stayed ahead the entire time," Rowe said.

Although Victory Junction isn't the largest project Randolph Electric has tackled, it's the most special. Before Victory Junction opened, Sherrill Lowe took groups of his co-workers on tours of the camp. "It's touched basically every employee at Randolph Electric," he said.

Victory Junction

A view of the Victory Junction Gang Camp from its balloon-shaped water tower.

A Petty family project

Founding and developing the camp in honor of their late son, Adam, were NASCAR driver Kyle Petty and his wife, Pattie. Adam Petty was a fourth-generation driver killed in a crash during a practice run at New Hampshire International Speedway on May 12, 2000.

The camp is located on 75 rural acres donated by Adam's grandparents, racing icon Richard Petty and his wife, Lynda.

(continued on p. 18)

(continued from p. 17)

But the Pettys haven't stood alone in making their dream camp a reality. Victory Junction is the fifth of screen legend and philanthropist Paul Newman's Association of Hole in the Wall Gang Camps in the United States. Newman founded the first camp in Connecticut in 1988.

Although Kyle Petty said the family thought about naming the camp Petticoat Junction or Mayberry, they settled on Victory Junction because it conjured images of racing. That racing theme ties the entire camp together. One of the most visible buildings is Adam's Race Shop, located in a building shaped like a stock car. With racing simulators, the shop is where kids will learn about the sport.

The equestrian center, with a roof like a circus big top and sheltered riding rings, is called the Horsepower Garage. The Fuel Stop is the dining hall. The pool even has a giant motorcycle that revs and squirts water on swimmers. At the heart of the camp is an oval race track which is kind of like Main Street.

"Even the things that a kid would expect from an ordinary summer camp experience, we've gone over the top on those things," Brian Collier said.

Victory Junction's state-of-the-art medical clinic has a full-time medical staff, but brings in additional doctors and nurses depending on the disease groups of the kids visiting the camp for the week.

"What we're doing here at Victory Junction is a medically sound, empowering environment for these kids to have fun," said Pattie Petty.

Big hearts helped build it

The goal here is not to cure children. "You can't do that in one week of camp, if ever," Collier said. "Our goal is to create very powerful, empowering experiences, build up their self-esteem, and let them spend a week with children who are going through the same issues that they are going through."

Victory Junction's grand opening on June 15 was a star-studded event attended by Paul Newman, Gov. Mike Easley and some of the biggest names in NASCAR, including Jeff Gordon and Tony Stewart. County music singer Sara Evans performed before a crowd of about 2,500 people, most of them donors.

Mark Brumley

Actor Paul Newman (center), who founded the first Hole in the Wall Gang camp in Connecticut in 1988, at the Victory Junction grand opening (from left) country singer Sara Evans, Richard Petty, and co-founders Pattie and Kyle Petty.

Building the electric distribution system: Richard Petty in his Friends of Randolph Electric shirt joins (from left) Randolph's Doug Bullins, Tony Cole and Cronnie Davis. The project chose Randolph Electric as its power supplier.

Adam Petty and his parents learned about Hole in the Wall Gang Camps at the association's Bogey Creek Gang Camp in Eustis, Fla., in 1998 during one of Kyle Petty's Charity Rides Across America. Adam, who did volunteer work for the Starbright Foundation for seriously ill children, was impressed with Bogey Creek and wanted to build a similar camp back home. The family talked about it extensively, but set the project aside after Adam's death.

"They put all of their plans on hold for a long time and then they rekindled that dream and started again in earnest in the last part of 2000 and have been full steam ahead since," Collier said.

Donations poured in from corporations, charitable foundations, nonprofit organizations and individuals to build the camp. Kids stay free, so there will always be a need for donations to pay the $2.5 million a year in operating costs.

Randolph Electric also made a "tremendous investment" in installing the power infrastructure at Victory Junction, Rowe said. The investment will be paid off over time through sales of power to the camp. But the cooperative wasn't seeing dollar signs when it took on the project.

"We thought with our heart, not with our wallet," Rowe said.

Mark Brumley is a freelance writer and a graduate student at Duke University. He teaches at Randolph Community College and lives in Asheboro with his wife and young son.

For more information

Victory Junction is intended primarily for children ages 7 to 15 from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. It will provide memorable and safe experiences for children suffering from arthritis, asthma, burns, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, gastrointestinal disease, heart disease, hemophilia, immunology deficiencies/HIV, kidney disease, liver disease, neurological disease, sickle cell disease, skin disease, and spina bifida.

Victory Junction is an independent nonprofit organization with its own board of directors and medical advisory board.

For more information, contact Victory Junction Gang Camp, 4500 Adam's Way, Randleman, NC, 27317. Phone: (336) 498-9055. Web: www.victoryjunction.org

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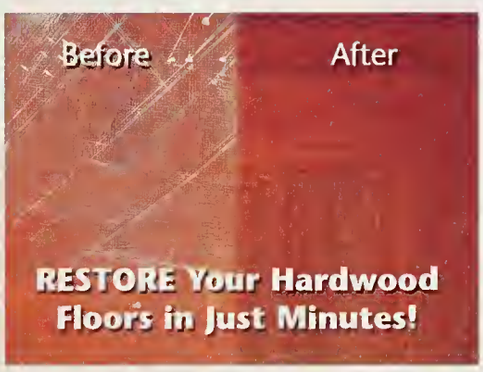

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UNC Hospitals teaches how to "Learn Not to Burn"

By Kristie L. Chipman

Known as one of the foremost burn prevention and treatment programs in the world, North Carolina's Jaycee Burn Center tries to teach people to avoid burning themselves in the first place. Since 1985, the Burn Center's Learn Not to Burn program has reached North Carolina people at an early age: the fourth grade.

The National Fire Association created the Learn Not to Burn (LNTB) Program, but it was the unwavering determination of Ernest Grant, a nurse at North Carolina's Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill, that brought the program to North Carolina. Grant worked as a burn nurse for five years, providing care for hundreds of victims when he decided to take the initiative to prevent burns and end the devastation that burn victims face. "The goal of this program was to keep people out of the burn center and reduce injuries," Grant said.

Nurse Ernest Grant, who brought the program to the Burn Center, says, "We know the Learn Not to Burn program has saved at least 35 lives and prevented thousands of injuries."

The LNTB program is presented to thousands of fourth grade students across the state each year. With an endorsement from the Department of Public Instruction, this program became part of the fourth grade curriculum in North Carolina public schools. Funding from donors such as North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives allows the program to send teachers to workshops and provide them with classroom materials to teach students the importance of fire safety.

"The best treatment for burns is prevention," said South River EMC CEO Buddy G. Creed, a member of the center's board of directors. "A huge step in the prevention of burns is teaching children life skills in the area of fire and life safety by getting the Learn Not To Burn program in every school."

Dale Lambert, CEO of Randolph EMC and Burn Center fundraising chairman, added, "With the electric industry we're in, our relationship with the Burn Center has been close throughout the years. We're extremely happy to be associated with it and a program [LNTB] that touches our kids at an early age, instilling in them the importance of fire prevention."

Grant said fourth grade seemed to be the right age to teach the program because the children are old enough to retain the information and then share it with their parents.

"Each time one of my three children went through the Learn Not to Burn program," Lambert said, "they would come home from school and make us practice and review our fire evacuation plan. If they hadn't been exposed to this type of program, developing a fire evacuation plan is something we wouldn't have thought about."

Grant hopes that by sharing LNTB information with friends and family, students will become more involved with fire safety and it will eventually become second nature. Grant's hopes have become realities in several situations. "We know the Learn Not to Burn program has saved at least 35 lives and prevented thousands of injuries," he said.

The success with the LNTB program in the fourth grade spawned the Learn Not to Burn Pre-School program, featuring Sparky, a Dalmatian dog. Children are never too young to learn about fire safety and because children younger than 5 have a high risk of fire-related deaths, it is important they learn about fire and burn prevention. Grant said, "There are about 1,435 day care centers across the state, and it is our goal to eventually get into all of them. Right now, we've reached about 25 to 30 percent of them."

The Learn Not to Burn program has helped prevent fires, injuries and deaths in North Carolina for almost two decades. The program touches the lives of 86,000 fourth grade students each year, creating educational opportunities for students to learn about burn and fire prevention. "It's really one of the best comprehensive programs stressing fire safety and burn prevention, and it couldn't be done without sponsorships like those from North Carolina's electric cooperatives," Grant said.

For more information about the Burn Center and its Learn Not to Burn program, contact NC Jaycee Burn Center, UNC Hospitals, 101 Manning Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Phone: (919) 966-3693. Web: http://viper.med.unc.edu/surgery/burncent/

Kristie L. Chipman, a senior majoring in public relations at North Carolina State University, is an intern with the Corporate Communications Department at the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

OLD MR. CHAFFIN'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

A Davie County Ghost Story

By Charles Joyner

James L. Chaffin, an elderly Davie County farmer, died on September 7, 1921, after a fall downstairs. In a will dated November 16, 1905, 16 years earlier, he bequeathed the family farm and all of his possessions to his third son, Marshall, who was named sole executor of the estate.

The widow and three other sons, John, James, and Abner, were left nothing. This came as no surprise, as the will had not been a secret. Marshall was his father's pride and joy. The will was duly probated and the property turned over to Marshall.

Almost four years later, in early June 1925, the second son, James, told of having a vivid dream. His father appeared to him, wearing his familiar long black overcoat. The apparition said nothing but pointed to an inside pocket of the overcoat again and again.

James awoke in a cold sweat. Unable to get the dream out of his mind, he went to the old homeplace in search of the overcoat. His mother remembered that she had given the coat to the older son, John. John now lived in Yadkin County, about 20 miles away.

Later in the week, James drove over to his brother John's house. John was not at home, but his wife found the old overcoat tucked away in a closet. It was too big for John. Together the two of them examined the coat. The inside pocket was sewn shut. When they cut it open they found a roll of yellow paper, tied up with string. James untied the string and unrolled the paper to read, in his father's faded handwriting, "Read the 27th chapter of Genesis in my daddy's old Bible."

This Bible, a family heirloom, was kept in a bureau drawer at the old Chaffin farmhouse in Davie County. Before James left, he and his sister-in-law looked up the reference in her Bible. It is the story of how Jacob won his father's blessing and received his brother Esau's birthright.

James decided he should take witnesses with him to examine the Bible of his grandfather, Nathan S. Chaffin. He and his daughter got a neighbor, Thomas Blackwelder, and Blackwelder's daughter to accompany them to the old homestead. There the four of them followed James' mother upstairs. When the old book was lifted out of the bureau drawer it fell into three pieces.

Mr. Blackwelder picked up the section containing the Book of Genesis. At the 27th chapter a paper was found, written in the elder James Chaffin's handwriting. It read:

After reading the 27th Chapter of Genesis, I, James L. Chaffin, do make my last will and testament, and here it is. I want, after giving my body a decent burial, my little property to be equally divided between my four children, if they are living at my death, both personal and real estate divided equal, if not living with share going to their children. And if she is living, you all must take care of your mammy. Now this is my last will and testament. Witness my hand and seal.

James L. Chaffin
This January 16, 1919

Prior to the time this will was found, Marshall had died. Upon being shown the will, his widow immediately agreed that it was in her father-in-law's handwriting, and therefore valid.

The court ordered the first will canceled, and the second will was probated.

This may be the only instance in modern legal history in which a ghost played a part in changing a court decision.

This story is told in "Immortality, The Scientific Evidence", by Alson J. Smith, published in 1954 by Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York.

IT WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK, SO IT TURNED ON THE LIGHTS

By Henry King

Arthur Cox used to run a little store along the road between Cedar Falls and Franklinville in Randolph County. Sipping a cola there late one afternoon, a customer casually said, "Mr. Cox, in a hour or so your day will be over. When you close, do you have to travel very far to get home?"

"Oh, I don't leave here when I close," he said. "I live in the back room."

"Oh? Have you always lived back there?"

"No," Cox said. "That little white house across the road is mine. My wife and I raised our kids there. But we moved out years ago. Had to. I just couldn't stand lights coming on at night and strange noises that made no sense. I told my wife I was fixing a bed in back of the store and sleeping over here from then on. The goings-on never seemed to bother my wife, but about a month after I came over here, she said I shouldn't be alone, so she joined me."

Cox and his wife didn't speak of ghosts, but rather hauntings, manifested by lights and noises. "We'd lock the house, turn out all the lights at bedtime and turn in. Quite often we'd see a light under the crack at the bottom of the door. I'd get up, go out in the hall and turn the light out. Sometimes the light would come on somewhere else."

Cox hired electricians to check the wiring and switches, but nothing was found out of order.

"What bothered me most were the noises," Cox said. "Lying there in the dark it sounded like someone tossing pebbles across the bedroom and they'd be hitting the floor"

The late Mary Cox Pierce lived in the house after her 1940s marriage to the Cox's son, Bill. She didn't notice anything amiss for a long time. But one night when the couple returned home, Bill stopped in the driveway to let his wife out while he put the car in the garage.

"The moon was shining real bright and I could see clearly. I saw a big ball of light coming right toward me," she said.

Once, daughter-in-law Mary Cox Pierce heard noises outside the bedroom window that sounded like horses or cows milling around. She also "felt a presence" as if something were lightly treading on her.

Arthur Cox had bought the frame house in 1906. He had noted nothing unusual about it while raising his family, but when the children married off, strange things began to manifest themselves.

Arthur Cox died in 1962. His wife went to a rest home. The family packed the household items for an auction.

Mrs. Pierce, who worked at a second shift job, was coming home after work late one night and as she pulled into the driveway to her new home across from the Cox house, she saw a light at the old place. The back bedroom of the Cox house was brightly lit. Family members still working to assemble auction items, she mused.

"You-all sure did work late last night," she said when she saw some of the family the next day.

Her remark met a sea of puzzled faces. They hadn't been there after dark. They finished packing before dusk, they said.

Historian and folklorist Henry King is giving readers a Halloween treat this year with the publication of his eighth book, "BOO: N.C. Ghost Guide."

The book includes some new and familiar stories, an index of hauntings, bibliographies of ghostly articles and books, and a list of places with spooky names. King, 85, collected many of the tales during his 30-plus years as a newspaper columnist.

Henry King's new book, "BOO: N.C. Ghost Guide," may be ordered directly from King's Possum Press, 137 Church St., Franklinville, NC 27248. They are $12.95, plus $1.42 for postage.

This is an excerpt from one story, entitled "It Was Afraid of the Dark, So It Tuned On the Lights." The setting is near King's home in the riverside town of Franklinville, where--appropriately enough--he lives across the street from a graveyard.

—Mark Brumley, Asheboro

The North Carolina State Fair runs from Friday, Oct. 15 through Sunday, Oct. 24. Fairground gates are open 8 a.m. to midnight. Exhibit halls open 9 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. Midway rides are open 10 a.m. to midnight.

General admission ticket prices to the fair are $6 for adults, $2 for children and free for seniors 65 and over, and children under 5.

Food Lion's Hunger Relief Day at the Fair will be held Thursday, Oct. 21. The event allows fairgoers to gain free admission to the Fair by donating four cans of Food Lion brand food to North Carolina hunger-relief efforts. This is one of the largest one-day canned-food drives in the state, held each year to benefit the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, formerly known as the Food Bank of North Carolina.

For more state fair information, visit *www.ncstatefair.org* or call (919) 821-7400.

Entertainment Line-Up

Dorton Arena will host a hot lineup of entertainment at the 2004 North Carolina State Fair with a mix of top newcomers and proven favorites.

The State Fair's entertainment lineup kicks off the evening of opening day Friday, Oct. 15 and continues each night until the final day Sunday, Oct. 24.

On Saturday, Oct. 16, Dorton Arena will host the first-ever State Fair Cheer & Dance Championship.

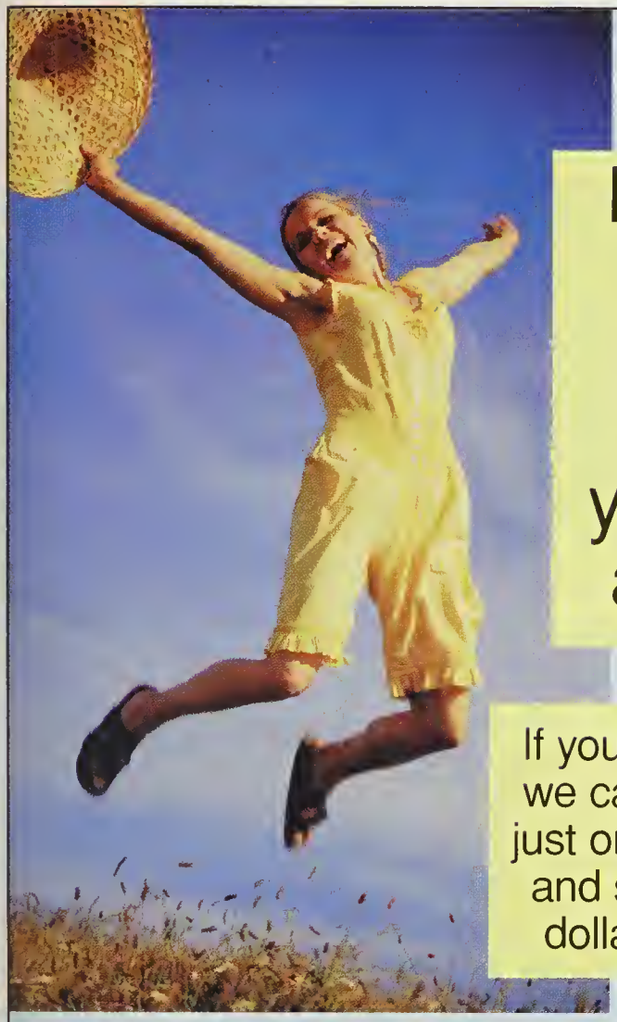
Fairgoers can purchase reserved tickets online at *www.ncstatefair.org* up until opening day. All concert tickets are $5 with the exception of Lonestar ($10) and Clay Aiken ($15). Reserved concert tickets will also be on sale at the Dorton Arena ticket booth during the State Fair unless the show sells out beforehand. Because only 6,000 seats are available, a limit of four tickets per fairgoer will be offered for the Clay Aiken concert. Fair admission will be required for all shows and there will be no free seating available. All shows start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Doors open an hour before each show.

Following is the 2004 N.C. State Fair entertainment lineup listed with a current hit:

Fri., Oct. 15	**Josh Turner**	"Long Black Train"
Sat., Oct. 16	**State Fair Cheer & Dance Championship**	
Sun., Oct. 17	**Kimberly Locke**	"Eighth World Wonder"
Mon., Oct. 18	**Clay Aiken**	"Invisible"
Tue., Oct. 19	**Grand Ole Opry's Legends Fest**	"Rose Garden" & "Back Side of Thirty"
Wed., Oct. 20	**Ralph Stanley, Rhonda Vincent, The Grasscats**	"O Brother, Where Art Thou" soundtrac
Thu., Oct. 21	**The Four Tops**	"Baby I Need Your Loving"
Fri., Oct. 22	**MercyMe**	"I Can Only Imagine"
Sat., Oct. 23	**Gary Allan**	"Songs About Rain"
Sun., Oct. 24	**Lonestar**	"Amazed"

STATE FAIR OCT. 15-24

will host big-name entertainers



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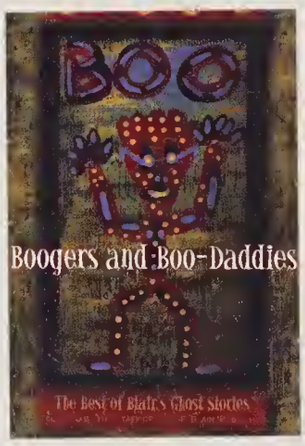
ON THE BOOKSHELF

Boogers, ghouls and wampus cats? Dead mothers visiting their children? And what is chicky-licky-chow-chow-chow? Eeeeeeeeeek! Just in time for Halloween, this fearsome collection of shivery tales aims to raise the hair off your neck and chill your blood. Don't forget to look over your shoulder when you read 'em – you just never know what's behind you!

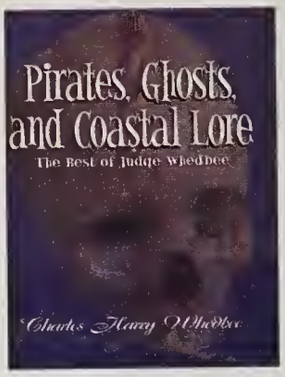
Spine-tingling novel

In "I Remember When They Took Her," North Carolina author Mario Watts takes readers on an eerie sci-fi journey. The story takes place in the fall of 2000, months after a newlywed couple moves to the small town of Aurora, and is told by a mother whose 12-year-old daughter is kidnapped. Days after the unusual kidnapping, the mother struggles with unexplained dreams of outer space creatures and news of similar, odd kidnappings. As each day unfolds, truths about her life and the path she must take are painstakingly brought to light. Published by iUniverse, Inc. Softcover, $11.95. Call (877) 823-9235 or visit www.iuniverse.com



"Boogers and Boo-Daddies"

A dead mother leaves her grave to keep her child from starving. A hermit's ghost transforms a fire into a hatchet. And the creaking wheels of the wagon who once took the condemned to the gallows are still heard echoing eerily down the street. This anthology of tales such as these are Blair Publishing staff's favorite folklore stories culled from 20 of the company's books. These tales of goblins, ghouls, boo-daddies, ghost dogs and more span the high peaks and mountain hollows to the swamps and barrier islands of North Carolina. Ten authors wrote the stories in this collection, which range chronologically from 1966 to 2002. Titles include "The Hatchet-Swinging Fire," The Ghost Who Rang The Gatehouse Bell," Wicket Witch of Nantahala," and "Blackbeard Cup." Published by John F. Blair Publisher of Winston Salem. Hardcover, $13.95. Call (336) 768-1374 or visit www.blairpub.com

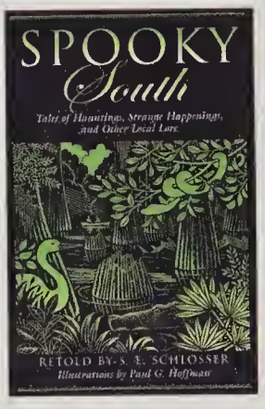


Judge Whedbee's fine tales

For decades, the folk tales of celebrated storyteller and Outer Banks native Charles Harry Whedbee have been available, and his five collections have sold from Australia to South Africa. The 13 stories in "Pirates, Ghosts and Coastal Lore" are selected from Whedbee's best. "Female of the Species" tells of a pair of women pirates as fearsome as their brethren and "New Berne's Bleeding Arch" looks at strange happenings at the site of a fatal duel. Published by John F. Blair Publisher of Winston Salem. Hardcover, $13.95. Call (336) 768-1374 or visit www.blairpub.com

Guide for hunting ghosts

In this simple but comprehensive manual, Asheville author Joshua Warren introduces readers to the art of ghost hunting. He breaks down theories, explains how to use the tools of the trade, and offers methods to facilitate ghost investigation. In "How To Hunt Ghosts: A Practical Guide," Warren identifies different types of entities, explains how spirits interact with the living and how to document ghostly activity. He also tells how to set up a research team and clear a location of a ghost. A paranormal expert and author of seven published books, Warren's work has earned attention from The New York Times, The Discovery Channel, CNN and other television networks. Published by Simon & Schuster. Black and white photographs. Softcover, $12. Call (212) 698-7000 or visit www.simonsays.com


SPOOKY
South
Tales of Hauntings, Strange Happenings, and Other Local Lore
RETOLD BY S. E. SCHLOSSER
Illustrations by Paul G. Hoffman

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Southern folklore is kept alive in these retellings of ghostly hauntings, eerie happenings and other strange occurrences in the South. Set in small towns, hard-to-reach islands and sparsely populated backwoods, the creepy stories tell of strange ticking sounds, a woman in black, and witches' bridles. Retold by folklore expert S.E. Schlosser, story titles include "Uncle Henry and the Dog Ghost," "The Devil's Marriage," "The Witch Woman and the Spinning Wheel" and "Chicky-licky-chow-chow-chow." "Spooky South: Tales of Hauntings, Strange Happenings and other Local Lore" is published by Globe Pequot Press of Gilford, Conn. Black and white photographs. Softcover, $11.95. Call (800) 962-0973 or visit www.GlobePequot.com

"Newbold-White House"

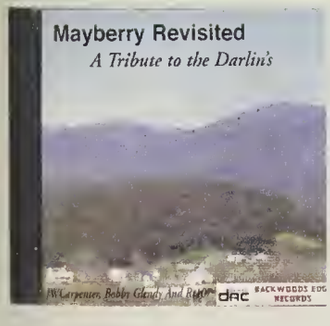
Iredell County artist Cotton Ketchie has issued a limited edition giclee print of his new painting "Newbold-White House." The oldest brick house in North Carolina is open to the public and is located near Hertford, Perquimans County, in the region served by Albemarle EMC.

Prints measure 12 by 16 ¼ inches and sell for $125 unframed (shipping included).

Contact Landmark Galleries at 212 N. Main St., Mooresville, NC 28115. Phone: (704) 664-4122 or (800) 842-8604. Web site: www.landmark-galleries.com E-mail: cotton@landmark-galleries.com.

Perfectly Plum dressings and sauces in Morehead City

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative member Priscilla Livingston, a former restraunteur and caterer, has created a line of original dressings and sauces using plums. The Perfectly Plum line, inspired by her travels to France and Taiwan, consists of six sauces and dressings: Original Plum sauce, Asian Plum dressing and sauce, Vinaigrette Plum dressing, Provencal Plum dressing, Chocolate Plum sauce and Barbecue Plum Sauce. Use the sauces on meats like smoked turkey or pork tenderloin or use it for dipping egg rolls or glazing roasted vegetables. The Perfectly Plum line can be found in Livingston's store in Morehead City, Priscilla's Crystal Coast Wines (www.crystalcoastwines.com), in specialty shops across the state as well as most Lowe's Food Stores. Their online store offers nutritional information and recipes. A 12-ounce jar is $5.99. The Chocolate Plum Sauce is $6.99. Call (888) 582-7586 or purchase online at www.perfectlyplum.com.



A tribute to Darlin's

BackWoods Edge Records in Nashville, Tenn. has released "Mayberry Revisited: A Tribute to the Darlin's." Studio musicians in Nashville came together to create a tribute album to the Dillards. Many of the songs that were performed on "The Andy Griffith Show" such as "Dooley" and "There is a Time" are included. This cd is the only one personally endorsed by Rodney Dillard, better known to some as "Spanky Darlin." The cd costs $11.99 plus $2.50 for shipping. Visit www.drcbackwoods.com/products.htm or www.mayberryshopping.com. Call (615) 332-8641.

Cruise to Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falklands

From January 25 to February 13, 2005, Hatteras resident Brian Patteson will lead a group of up to 30 participants on an expedition to Antarctica, South Georgia and The Falklands. The 15-day trip will be on the Peregrine Voyager, a Russian research ship that has been refitted for comfortable expedition cruising. Expect to see a wide variety of seabirds and other wildlife, including tens of thousands of penguins, whales and albatross. The cost of the trip is $8,600 plus air fare to Santiago, Chile. For information, contact Brian Patteson, (252) 986-1363. Visit online at www.patteson.com.

Phillips Brothers Country Hams of Asheboro

Phillips Brothers Country Ham in Asheboro is a family-owned business serving North Carolina since 1947. What began as a meat processing center today specializes in curing hams and side meat. Hams are hand-rubbed with a curing mixture and then cured the slow, old-fashioned way for robust country ham flavor. Phillips Brothers sells a variety of cuts of ham, side meat, sausages, jellies, jams and gift boxes. Phillips Brothers Hams can be found in grocery stores across the south. You can visit their online store at www.phillipsbrotherscountryham.com to view their products, get recipes or order online. Prices range from $34.95 plus $7 shipping for a 13-16 pound whole ham to $17.95 plus $4.50 shipping for "Midnight Snack" gift box containing biscuit cut ham slices, pancake/biscuit mix and fruit syrup. Call (336) 625-4321.

North Carolina Alphabet print

Raleigh artist Matthew Mahler has created a print of his original painting, "North Carolina Alphabet." The painting denotes all the letters of the alphabet through shapes and figures associated with North Carolina living. Mahler draws his inspiration from leisure traveling throughout North Carolina, southern Louisiana and southern Florida. Fine art prints are $20 for an 8-inch by 10 ½-inch print or $50 for an 18-inch by 24-inch print. Please add $4.50 for shipping. Send a check or money order to Matthew Mahler, 705 Royal Anne Lane #103, Raleigh, NC 27615. Call (919) 676-8424. To view this print and other works, visit www.matthewlmahler.com

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"Beaufort Porches"

The Beaufort Business Association and Beaufort artist Mary Faith Warshaw produced this poster of some of Beaufort's unique porches. The artist's commissioned paintings are an ongoing effort to document the historical and architectural significance of the homes of Beaufort-by-the-Sea, North Carolina's third oldest town. Proceeds from the sale of these reproductions will be used to support local projects and cultural events, all in an effort to help preserve Beaufort's heritage.

The Beaufort Fence is distinctive with its "up and down" pickets. In Beaufort's early days fences were required to have a "paled in" or pointed stake characteristic. This may have been due to an old law intended to contain farm animals. Part of the law stated that residents were allowed to catch and kill a pig found running in the streets, but they had to give half to the churchwardens who would distribute it to the hungry.

All posters are hand-signed and measure 18 by 24 inches. Send a check for $30 (includes shipping) to: Beaufort Business Association, P.O. Box 56, Beaufort, NC 28516. Submit your complete mailing address with your order.

For more information about Mary Warshaw's art, visit www.marywarshaw.com

BelleauWood Farms Alpacas

For the past eight years, Steven and Erin McCarthy and their daughter, Megan, have bred and raised alpacas on their farm eight miles from downtown Charlotte. Belleauwood Farms (sounds like "Jello-wood") sells breeder alpacas, which can cost thousands and fiber/pet quality alpacas, which run $400-$500. Belleauwood Farms holds open houses throughout the year, but private tours are available by appointment. Visit their farm store at 2500 Ridge Road, Charlotte, NC 28269. Call (704) 503-7369 or visit www.belleauwood.com

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For an additional $30 beyond your normal tag fee, you can get the special issue license tag. Of that additional $30, the state donates $20 to the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras.

To reserve your tag, call the museum and ask for the "historical/state attraction" application form. Once you get the form and complete it and send $30 along with it. Your plate will be issued at your normal renewal time.

The $30 then becomes an annual fee that is billed to you by the Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with the current schedule for renewing your plates.

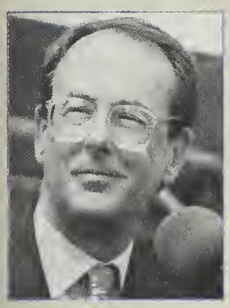
For the license plate application form, visit the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum Web site's "Membership" page at www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com. Phone (252) 986-2995. E-mail: museum@graveyardoftheatlantic.com.

Or you can contact the state special license plate office at (919) 733-7510.

A look at

North Carolina's U.S. Senate Race

Name: Erskine Bowles, DEMOCRAT



Born: August 8, 1945

Education: Graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, Columbia Business School

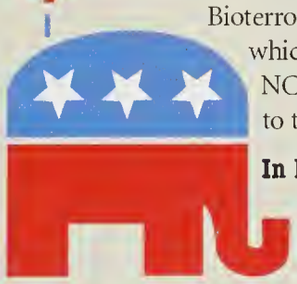
Accomplishments: Mr. Bowles headed the Small Business Administration in 1993. He served as President Clinton's White House Chief of Staff from 1996 -1998. As such, he played a key role in negotiating the nation's first balanced budget in 30 years. In 1998, he chaired then-Gov. Hunt's Rural Prosperity Task Force. Along with his wife, Crandall, he founded the ALS Center in Charlotte.

In his own words: Putting people back to work is our first priority. The next priority is putting the federal budget back in working order.

I spell out in my jobs plan how I believe we should restore fiscal discipline to Washington. I also spell out how to pay for this jobs plan. We can give all families in North Carolina—and across America—the jobs, hope and opportunities they deserve.

Terrorism remains a real and significant threat to our nation and our state. We cannot put our preparations on the back burner. I will go to Washington and work with ALL sides on this issue to get these measures in place now, so that all Americans can feel safe, secure and free from terror.

To read more about Erskine Bowles on the issues, visit www.bowles2004.com



Name: Richard Burr, REPUBLICAN

Born: Nov. 30, 1955

Education: Graduate of Wake Forest University

Accomplishments: Richard Burr is currently serving his fifth term in the U.S. Congress representing North Carolina's Fifth district. He served on the Task Force on Health Care and successfully sponsored a bill that offers prescription drug benefits to Medicare beneficiaries. He serves on the House Select Committee on Intelligence and the Task Force on Terrorism. Mr. Burr was a member of the Conference Committee on Bioterrorism and sponsored legislation which provides funds to strengthen NC's preparedness and response to this threat.

In his own words: I believe that my experience in the U.S. House will allow me to be an effective Senator.

My record shows that I have been a strong supporter of lower taxes and reduced government spending. I believe that the government must be careful in how it spends your money.

I am a proponent of a strong national defense and a supporter of the war on terror.

I have been involved with writing and passing health care legislation to address the needs of all of our citizens, especially our seniors.

I also believe that we should do all we can to strengthen the family unit in America and adhere to the values that have made our country so great for so long.

To read more about Richard Burr on the issues, visit www.richardburrcommittee.com

Do you know why there are 435 Representatives and 100 Senators in Congress?

When the Delegates debated the Constitution, they decided that they wanted Congress to consist of two houses—The Senate and The House of Representatives. The Senate was designed to provide equal representation to each state as a whole, thus it is made up of two Senators for every state regardless of its size. Under the Constitution, Senators serve 6-year terms, and a third of the Senate is elected every two years. Because we have 50 states, there are 100 Senators in the Senate.

The Delegates wanted The House of Representatives to directly represent the people. The Constitution, therefore, bases its membership on population with a minimum of one Representative per state each serving a 2-year term. While the Constitution sets the minimum Congressional District at 30,000 people per Representative, it does not mandate a maximum. Current law sets the number of Representatives at 435. The Congressional Districts are apportioned equally after each 10-year census. All Representatives must be elected every two years.

Halloween is here

"On Halloween night the Great Pumpkin rises out of the Pumpkin Patch then flies through the air and brings toys to all the children in the world.

— *Linus in "The Great Pumpkin," by Charles Schulz*

SURF IT!

www.bowles2004.com
www.richardburrcommittee.com
www.secretary.state.nc.us/kidspg/
www.worldalmanacforkids.com

classroom chuckle

What kind of horse only comes out on Halloween?

A nightmare.

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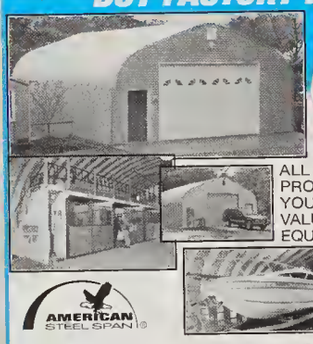
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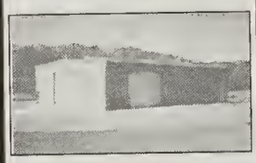

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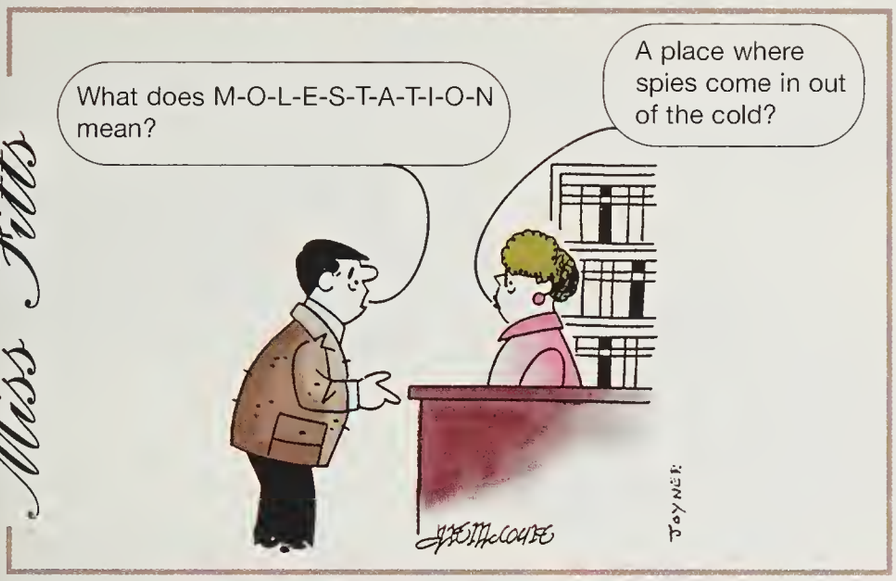

And Then I Read

Easley signs law extending summer

The Hendersonville Times-News (8/10/04)

MATCH BOXES

R	A	R	D	B	D	U	M	D

X

N

Match the boxes below with the boxes above to create a multiplication problem. Solve the problem and write your answer in the box tops. Then match boxes again to find the name of a North Carolina county in your answer.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
D	M	A	C	R	E	B	L	U	N

WORD PLAY

—WARD—WARY—PRAY—

To put this PIG into this STY, you must change one letter in each step to spell a different word. Letters can be rearranged in any step.

Your answer may be different from mine.

PIG

___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___

STY

UNSCRAMBLIT

Use the capital letters in the code clue below to fill in the blanks.

"BEGHILORST VY" means unscramble it

"___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ is the only thing you cannot have unless your are willing

a r u n b e t

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

e m s r i n r e e m

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ."

m e c n b l

William Allen White

Answers on page 32

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Unscramblit
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Word Play
PIG PIT SIT STY

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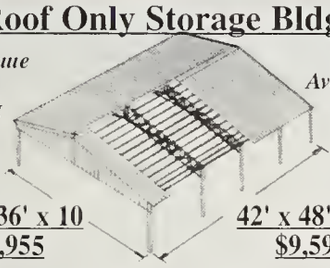

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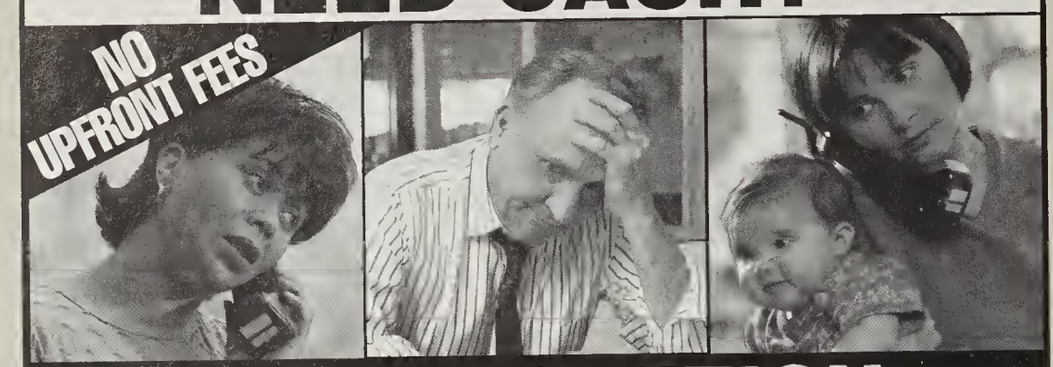

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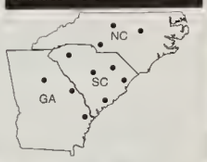

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*Conforming for refi. Also Great Jumbos. **Non-conforming Arm's fixed for 1 yr. & 3 yrs., call for other ARM's, Mfg. Homes, Slow Credit, Interest only, No Income Verification, Bankruptcy, etc. Ask about mortgage rewards for timely payments.

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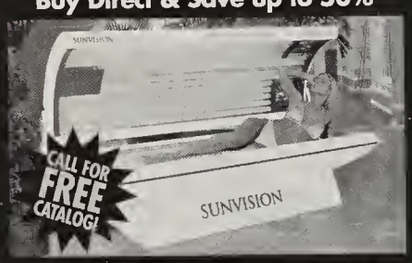

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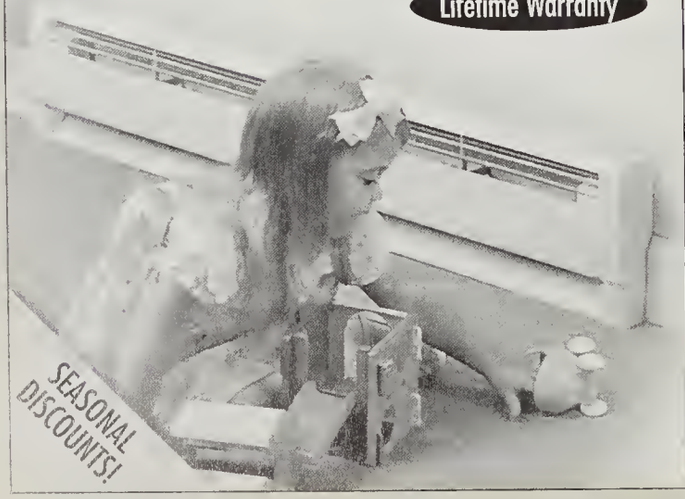

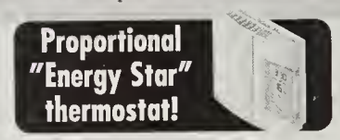

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Mountain Glory Quilter's Show
Through October, Marion
(828) 652-8610

Octoberfest
Oct. 1-2, Old Fort
Mountain Gateway Museum
(828) 668-7223

John C. Campbell Fall Festival
Oct. 2-3, Brasstown
(800) FOLK-SCH
www.folkschool.org

Forest Festival Day
Oct. 2, Pisgah Forest
(828) 877-3130
www.cradleofforestry.com.

Brushy Mountain Apple Festival
Oct. 2, North Wilkesboro
(336) 984-3022
www.applefestival.net

Sea Kayak Lake Jocassee
Oct. 2, 10, 19, Rosman
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Cotton Ginning Days
Oct. 8-10, Dallas
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Chautauqua AVE!
Oct. 8-17, Andrews
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Antique & Art Festival
Oct. 8-10, Kings Mountain
(704) 739-4755

Chili Cook-off
Oct. 9, Murphy
(828) 837-2242

Chili Cook-off
Oct. 9, Love Valley
(704) 592-7451

Mountain Glory Festival
Oct. 9, Marion
(828) 652-2215
www.mtgloryfestival.com

Hotlanta
Dixieland Jazz
Oct. 10, Hayesville
(828) 389-0033
www.mapaa.org/html/bca.html

"The Adventures of Curious George"
Oct. 14, Spindale
(828) 286-9990
www.FoundationShows.org

Harvest of Quilts
Oct. 15-17, Flat Rock
(828) 694-1420

Pumpkin Patch
Oct. 15-31, Boone
(828) 264-7130

Lake Eden Arts Festival
Oct. 15-17, Black Mountain
(828) 68-MUSIC
www.theLEAF.com

Train Excursion
Oct. 15-17, Spencer
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www.nctransorg

Kid's Fair
Oct. 16, Murphy
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"Great American Duck Race"
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Country Fair
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Hometown Apple Festival
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Picnic at the Pavilion/ Concert in the Valley
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Southern Highland Craft Fair
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www.southernhighlandguild.org

Mountain Music Quilt Show
Oct. 22-24, Franklin
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www.franklinchamber/news.html

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(704) 857-7728

Barn Tour
Oct. 30, Union County
(704) 843-9676

Halloween Festival
Oct. 31, Murphy
(828) 837-3460

PIEDMONT

Concert
Doc Watson & David Holt
Oct. 1, Winston-Salem
(336) 725-0159
www.wskiwanis.com

Antiques Fair
Oct. 2, Cameron
(910) 245-7001
www.homeofgolf.com

Autumnfest & Road Race
Oct. 2, Southern Pines
(910) 692-2463
www.homeofgolf.com

The Southern Highland Craft Guild will hold its craft fair Oct. 21-24 in Asheville. Now in its 57th year, the fair gathers 180 craftspeople in the heart of downtown and offers an opportunity to see and purchase some of the best crafts produced in the southeast. Call (828) 298-7928. Or visit www.southernhighlandguild.org.

Autumn Jubilee
Oct. 2-3, Salisbury
(704) 636-2089
www.co.rowan.nc.us

Sundays at Bost Grist Mill
Oct. 3, Concord
(704) 782-1600
www.bostgristmill.com

SECCA Santa
Oct. 7-9, Winston-Salem
(336) 725-1904
www.secca.org

"The Chronicle of the Horse"
Eastern Adult Team Challenge
Oct. 8-10, Norwood
(704) 378-2118
www.forkstables.com

continued on pg.36

OCTOBER EVENTS

continued from pg.35

Down East Festival
Oct. 9, Rocky Mount
(252) 972-1151
www.ci.rockymount.nc.us/events

Holiday Craft Show
Oct. 9, Monroe
704-282-4685
lbroome@monroenc.org

Alleghany Moon
Concert
Oct. 9, Pilot Mountain
(336) 368-7111
www.alleghanymoon.com

Tailgate Rock Swap
The Rocks - Gemstone Mining
Oct. 9, Pittsboro
(800) 910-6112
www.ncgems.com

Fall Festival
Oct. 9, Gibsonville
(336) 449-7357
www.ceobarb@aol.com

Antique Show/Appraisal Fair
Oct. 9, Warrenton
(252) 257-2657
www.warren-chamber.org

PeopleFest
Oct. 9, Wadesboro
(704) 694-5381
www.cityofwadesboro.org

Rayna Gellert & Kenny Jackson
Old-time fiddlers
Oct. 10, Raleigh
(919) 807-7900
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Carnivalito
Big band, jazz, salsa
Oct. 10, Raleigh
(919) 662-5704

"Frankenstein"
Temple Theater
Oct. 14-31, Sanford
(919) 774-4155

Big Lick Antiques & Crafts
Oct. 15-17, Oakboro
(704) 485-4906
www.hinsonauction.com

Juggernaut Jug Band
Oct. 15, Oakboro
(704) 485-2112
www.oakboromusichall.com

N.C. State Fair
Oct. 15-24, Raleigh
(919) 821-7400
www.ncstatefair.org

Antique Tractor & Engine Show
Oct. 15-17, Denver
(704) 588-0191

Folklife Festival
Oct. 16-17, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

Bluegrass Gospel
With Blue Highway
Oct. 16, Albemarle
(704) 986-3666

The Amazing Maize
Through Oct. 17, Huntersville
Historic Rural Hill Farm
(704) 875-3113

Ronnie Bowman
Bluegrass performer
Oct. 23, Oakboro
(704) 485-2112
www.oakboromusichall.com

Barbecue Festival
Oct. 23, Lexington
(336) 248-5929
www.BarbecueFestival.com

Bob Timberlake Fall Open House
Oct. 23, Lexington
(336) 249-4428
www.bobtimberlake.com

Southern Supreme Open House
Oct. 24-26, Bear Creek
(336) 581-3141
www.sosupreme.com

Crime Stoppers Carnival
Oct. 27, Eden Mall
(336) 932-3458

Civil War Ghost Walk
Oct. 29-30, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

Horse and Mule Days
Oct. 29-31, Denton
(336) 248-5929
www.threshers.com

Antique Street Festival
Oct. 30, Lillington
(910) 893-3751
www.lillington.org

Boo Bash
Oct. 30, Mocksville
(336) 751-3112
www.daviearts.org

Day of the Dead/
Dia de los Muertos
Oct. 30, Raleigh
(919) 807-7900
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Bluegrass, Country & Gospel
Saturday evenings,
Mineral Springs
(803) 984-7228

Old Time Music Jam
Oct. 31, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

COAST

N.C. Seafood Festival
Oct. 1-3, Morehead City
(252) 726-6273

Peanut Festival
Oct. 1-2, Enfield
(252) 445-3146

N.C. Seafood Festival Roadrace
Oct. 2, Morehead City
(252) 726-5083

"When Pigs Fly"
Farm Tour
Oct. 2-3, Perquimans County
(252) 426-5428

Horsin' Round Horse Show
Oct. 2-3, Williamston
(252) 792-5111
www.ShowWithUs.com

Big Rock Sailfish Challenge
Oct. 7-9, Morehead City
(252) 247-3575

Mullet Festival
Oct. 8-10, Swansboro
(910) 353-0241

Artwalk
Oct. 8-9, Edenton
(800) 775-0111

Surf Fishing Tournament
Oct. 8-10, Atlantic Beach
(800) 622-6278

Civil War Era Wedding
Music by Un-reconstructed
Oct. 9, New Bern
(252) 638-8558

Scuppernong River Festival
Oct. 9, Columbia
(252) 796-2781

Mumfest
Oct. 9-10, New Bern
(252) 638-5781
www.mumfest.com

Contra Dance
Oct. 9, Beaufort
Jigs, reels & old time tunes
(252) 504-2787

Carolista Music Festival
Oct. 10, Manteo
(252) 475-1500

Charity Gospel Sing
Oct. 10, Mount Olive
(919) 658-2288
www.glenwoodfarms.net

Maritime History Festival
Oct. 11-16, Washington
(252) 946-9168
www.originalwashington.com

LISTING INFORMATION

Deadline for Dec: Oct 25
Deadline for Jan: Nov 25

Submit Listings on Our Web Site
Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click on "See NC" to add yo event to both the magazine and our Web site.

Or Submit Listings by Mail, Fax E-Mail Please include title, date, location, phone number and/o Web site url. Photos (300 dpi o hard copies) are welcome.

Send to:
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FAX: 919-878-3970 | E-MAIL: CAROLINA.COUNTRY@NCEMCS.CO

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OCTOBER EVENTS

Hamilton's Bicentennial
Oct. 16, Hamilton
(252) 798-2001

"Bailey Jester"
Oct. 15, New Bern
Oct. 16, Beaufort
Folk music
(252) 504-2787

Black River Canoe trip
Oct. 16, Bladen & Pender Counties
(910) 695-4323
www.sandhillslandtrust.org

Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra
Oct. 16, Morehead City
(252) 247-3883

Ghost Walk
Oct. 21-23, New Bern
(252) 638-8558

Lighthouse Society Weekend
Oct. 21-23, Cape Lookout area Portsmouth Island, Beaufort, Ft. Macon, Cape Point, Harkers Island
(919) 787-6378
www.outerbankslighthousesociety.org

Spook Trail, Haunted House
Oct. 22-31, Mt. Olive
(919) 658-2288
www.glenwoodfarms.net

Bluegrass Hot Air Balloon Festival
Oct. 23, Belhaven
(252) 944-4529
www.wilkinsoncenter.com

Fine Art Show
Oct. 23-26, Washington
(252) 946-9168
www.originalwashington.com

Wildlife Art Show
Oct. 23-24, New Bern
(252) 638-5781
www.ncwildlifeartshow.com

Health, Wellness, Safety Expo
Oct. 23, Williamston
(252) 792-5111
www.ShowWithUs.com

Fall Gala & Art Show
Oct. 23, Beaufort
(800) 575-7843
www.historicbeaufort.com

Kite Fest
Oct. 23-24, Atlantic Beach
(252) 247-7011

Music in the Streets
Oct. 29, Washington
(252) 946-9168
www.originalwashington.com

Cape Lookout Albacore Festival
Oct. 29-30, Beaufort
(252) 726-3773
www.claf.org

River Tours
Wed-Sat, through Dec. 15, Washington
(252) 948-0000
www.partnershipforthesounds.org

continued on pg.38

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THE BOB TIMBERLAKE GALLERY is pleased to announce the release of *"Boone Winter"*, a very special time-limited edition by Bob Timberlake.

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Lexington, NC 27292
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www.bobtimberlake.com

Orders for "Boone Winter" will be accepted from September 13th through November 13th, 2004.

To order or for more information, please contact The Bob Timberlake Gallery toll free at 1-800-244-0095.

OCTOBER EVENTS

continued from pg.37

Now Showing

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Art After Dark
Through Dec. 3, Waynesville and Frog Level
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"Untying the Apron Strings: North Carolina Women in Transportation"
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N.C. Transportation Museum
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www.nctrans.org

"Places and Faces"
Through Oct. 14, Shelby
Synergy Studios
(704) 487-0114
www.ShoppeCharlotte.com

PIEDMONT

"Building Fun: World of Kapla"
Oct. 2 – Jan. 16, 2005, Durham
Museum of Life and Science
(919) 220-5429
www.ncmls.org

Andrew Wyeth: The Helga Pictures
Oct. 16- Jan. 9, 2005, Charlotte
N.C. Mint Museum
(704) 337-2097
www.mintmuseum.org

Pigs in the City II
Through October 20, Lexington
(336) 249-0383
www.uptownlexington.com

Katsumi Murakami Exhibit
Japanese sculptor
Through Nov. 7, Fayetteville
Fayetteville Museum of Art
(800) 255-8217
www.fayettevillemuseumart.org

"Across Time"
Bob Timberlake watercolors
Through Nov. 13, Lexington
(800) 244-0095

"Communication"
Through Dec. 30, Charlotte
Discovery Place
(704) 372-6261, x300
www.discoveryplace.org

"Soldiers: The Global War on Terror"
Through December, Fayetteville
The Airborne & Special Operations Museum
(800) 255-8217
www.asomf.org

"The Nature and Craft of the Penland Experience"
Through Jan. 2005, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Craft + Design
(704) 337-2066
www.mintmuseum.org

Main Streets of Our State
Through Jan. 2, 2005, Charlotte
The Charlotte Museum of History
(704) 568-1774
www.charlottemuseum.org

"Matisse, Picasso, and the School of Paris"
Through Jan. 16, 2005, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Art
(919) 715-5923
www.ncartmuseum.org

"Treasures Unearthed: NC's Spectacular Gems & Minerals"
Through June 12, 2005, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences
(919) 733-7450
www.naturalsciences.org

"Porcelain American Style"
Through June 26, 2005, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art
(704) 337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org

"Speaking Volumes: Vessels from the Collection of the Mint Museums"
Through April 17, 2005
Mint Museum of Art
(704) 337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org

COAST

"Lured by Fishing"
Through Oct. 17, Beaufort
N.C. Maritime Museum
(252) 728-7317
www.ncmm-friends.org

"Textiles & Treasures of the Middle East"
Through Oct. 17, Manteo
Kilims & woven textiles
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

Portsmouth Village Photos
Through October 26, Beaufort
N.C. Maritime Museum
(252) 728-7317

"Farm Life Remembered"
Through October, Snow Hill
Greene County Museum
(252) 747-1999

History, Arts and Fun – All Rolled Into One!
Through Oct. 31, Manteo
(252) 475-1506
www.roanokeisland.com

"Down on the Farm"
Through Nov. 7, Hertford
Perquimans Arts League Gallery
(252) 426-3041

"Politics in Action"
Through Nov. 28, Wilmington
Cape Fear Museum
(910) 341-4350
www.capefearmuseum.com

"Ribbons of Sand: Batik Art of Barrier Islands by Mary Edna Fraser"
Through December, Manteo
Outer Banks History Center
(252) 473-2655
www.maryedna.com

"Lured by Fishing" by Carol Lassiter is on exhibit through Oct. 17 at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. Call (252) 728-7317.

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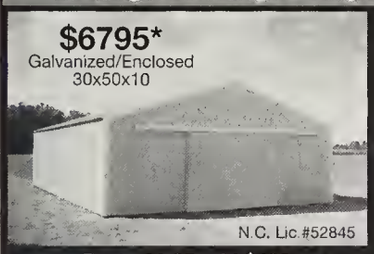

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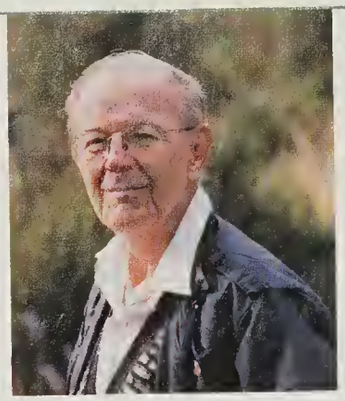

Autumn calls up a new set of enjoyable garden chores: planting evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, preparing potted plants for indoor gardens, preparing lawns for winter, storing soil energy in vegetable gardens; and vitalizing annuals and perennials.

Winter lawn care

Emerald zoysia is well adapted to the Deep South. It's fast-growing, fine in texture, deep green in color and makes a most attractive turf. It is tolerant of shade, and under favorable conditions it becomes established rapidly. You can also grow it successfully further north.

Organic matter greatly improves soil. Take care to avoid adding high-carbon material such as sawdust, which can create nitrogen deficiencies. If you do add sawdust, also add either nitrogen fertilizer or well-decayed manure to speed decomposition and restore a healthy balance of nitrogen. Overseed warm-season grasses such as zoysia, centipede or Bermuda with annual rye grass for winter color. Seed early before tree leaves begin to fall.

Container herb garden

Many herbs are perennials, easy to grow, disease resistant, hardy, useful and inexpensive. Basil, one of the most common herbs that can be found in garden centers, is excellent for growing in pots and indoors. Water it well, but make sure the soil is well-drained. Sow seeds directly into pots. Pick leaves and use throughout its growing season. Small white flowers begin to form toward end of summer. Pinch these flowers to prolong the life of the plant and make it bushier. Harvest a mature plant and use it fresh, or dry it out to use throughout the winter. Add basil to soups, stews, sauces, salads and sandwiches. It's especially good with tomatoes. Use it in vinegar and oils, or dry it to store in olive oil.

Chives, a member of the onion family, are perennials and easy to grow in pots. This herb likes the sun but will grow well in partial shade. Chives like rich, well-watered but well-drained soil. Divide the bulb and plant it together or separately in the fall. Cut leaves for use when needed. Chives are a popular addition to cream cheese. You can add it to salads, soups and sandwiches or use it as a garnish. Refrigerate it in sealed bags for up to seven days. You can dry or freeze chives, and they're good for using in oils and vinegars.

Oregano, a perennial in warm climates, is a favorite in Italian cuisine. Plant it in sunny but not scorching conditions. Make the soil nutrient-rich. Divide roots and plant together or separately in autumn. Pick the leaves for use anytime. Oregano is used in pasta sauces and on pizza.

Coriander (cilantro) is an annual that requires rich soil in the sun, or a well-lit indoor garden. Plant seeds in the spring. Pick the leaves anytime. Pick the seeds when they turn brown but before they drop from the plant.

Coriander is an essential part of salsa and many Mexican dishes. Its seeds and leaves are popular ingredients in curries. Freeze the leaves or infuse them in vinegar.

With proper lighting, an herb garden adds an accent to indoor gardens. Many garden centers sell special "sunshine-like" lights for indoor gardens.

The Atlantic white cedar thrives in coastal fresh water swamps and bogs. It may reach 80 to 85 feet tall and 1 to 1½ feet in diameter. It produces small cones, which are somewhat fleshy and wrinkled like raisins. This is a good selection for a low spot in the yard where water will accumulate. Like other dense shade trees, Atlantic white cedar needs groundcovers.

Look and plan ahead

Now's the time to make decisions regarding changes to improve the overall landscape of your garden. Check all trees and evergreen shrubs to determine if any need removing due to die-back. Prepare a simple drawing of buildings and surrounding yard areas. Indicate windows and their exposures to determine the locations of indoor gardens for a source of sunlight.

You might spend indoor time during cold and rainy spells studying garden catalogs and placing orders for plants you'd like to get. Sometimes supply houses sell out early, so it's wise to get orders in the mail. Many local nurseries and garden centers reduce prices in autumn, clearing shelves for winter supplies.

For more October gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of carolinacountry.com

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www.carolinacountry.com

HORT shorts

- Plant carrot seeds in small pots, and place in the sunshine. Before frost, bring them indoors. Place pots among house plants where they give a fern-like accent. Plants do best in bright light.
- Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) has a long taproot and is not easily transplanted or divided. The plant is tolerant of heat and humidity and is an excellent cut flower. Spider mites can be a serious problem.
- Baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*) grows best in high light and long days. Plants prefer a high pH (6.5-7.4). Blooms can be produced year-round in a greenhouse or a well-lit indoor room—preferably one with sunlight. Baby's breath is a popular bride's bouquet flower. Use it as filler in indoor floral designs.
- Indoor potted plants that have spent the summer outdoors need to slow adjusted to their return inside. Move these potted plants to filtered light for a few days.

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Submitted by Ronda Wilkins, Youngsville

Pumpkin Roll

4 eggs
2 teaspoons pumpkin spice
½ can pumpkin
½ cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon vanilla
⅓ cup sugar
½ cup sugar
sifted powdered sugar

CREAM CHEESE FILLING
3 ounces cream cheese
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups sifted powdered sugar
2 teaspoons heavy whipping cream

Separate eggs and sit at room temperature. Grease a 15-by-10-by-1-inch jelly roll pan. Stir flour and baking soda together and set aside. Add pumpkin spice. Beat egg yolks, vanilla and ½ can pumpkin on high for 5 minutes, then add ⅓ cup sugar. Beat egg whites on medium until soft peaks form, slowly add ½ cup sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Fold egg yolk mixture into beaten egg whites. Sprinkle flour mixture over egg mixture. Just combine and spread batter evenly into pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 12-15 minutes or until cake springs back. Immediately turn cake out onto a paper towel and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Roll up towel until cooled. Unroll and fill with cream cheese filling and roll back up and sprinkle with powered sugar.

Sesame Chicken Strips

1 cup mayonnaise
2 teaspoons dried minced onion
2 teaspoons ground mustard
1 cup crushed butter-flavored crackers
½ cup sesame seeds
2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts

SAUCE
1 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons honey

In a bowl, combine the mayonnaise, onion and mustard. In another bowl, combine the crackers and sesame seeds. Cut the chicken lengthwise into ¼-inch strips. Dip the strips into mayonnaise mixture, then into the sesame seed mixture.

Place in a single layer on a large greased baking sheet. Bake at 425 degrees for 15-18 minutes or until the juices run clear. Combine the sauce ingredients and serve with the chicken strips.

Yield: 10-12 servings.

Apple Cobbler

⅓ cup sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
4 cups sliced peeled tart apples (about 4 large)
⅓ cup orange juice

TOPPING
1 cup all-purpose flour
⅓ cup plus 2 teaspoons sugar, divided
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ cup cold butter or stick margarine
½ cup fat-free milk

In a large bowl, combine the sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add apples and orange juice; toss to coat. Transfer to an 11-by-7-by-2-inch baking dish coated with nonstick cooking spray.

For topping, combine flour, ⅓ cup sugar, baking powder and salt. Cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in milk just until moistened. Drop eight mounds onto the apple mixture. Sprinkle with remaining sugar. Bake at 375 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into topping comes out clean. Serve warm if desired.

Yield: 8 servings.

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Find more than 200 recipes and photos, and share your favorite recipes, at our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

Recipes for cobbler and chicken strips are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send $2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com.

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